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LD0903140789 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens criticized the speech made recently in Cairo by his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze as "reminiscent of the statements emanating from Moscow during Brezhnev's time or the Bulganin era," Tel Aviv's MA'ARIV newspaper reported. Arens referred in particular to Shevardnadze's statement about possible sanctions against Israel and his doubt about whether Israel is "interested in peace at all," the paper noted.

The United States "should adhere to the definition of terror which it had embraced for a long time," Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin declared in remarks reported by Jerusalem television and radio.

Rabin rebutted the statement attributed to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that attempted infiltrations by terrorists into Israel "should not be defined as terrorist activities" and denied reports Israel is planning to expand the "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said there is "some sort of misunderstanding" of the remarks attributed to Secretary Baker since State Department spokesman Charles Redman said "otherwise in a different spirit," Tel Aviv's IDF radio noted. Netanyahu added that the United States is in some "distress" over the "contradictions" between the PLO's words and its actions.

Referring to the 8 March clash between an IDF unit and a Norwegian contingent of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Rabin said Israel will not permit UNIFIL to hinder the Israeli army's freedom of movement in South Lebanon, IDF radio reported. According to Jerusalem radio, the United Nations has protested Israel's "unacceptable" closure of the border to UNIFIL troops. The border has been reopened, according to UNIFIL sources cited by Beirut radio.

Syria

Syria is "serious" in seeking a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and a "just peace" in the region, President Hafiz al-Asad declared in a speech marking the revolution anniversary broadcast by Damascus radio and television. Israel, on the other hand, "holds strongly" to Arab territory, denies rights, and is the "enemy of just peace," he asserted.

Turning to Syria's role in the Lebanese conflict, Al-Asad contended that his country does not seek "sovereignty or land" in Lebanon; Syria and Lebanon are part of the single Arab nation and Syria "will never support a non-Arab Lebanon." He called for "serious political reforms" in Lebanon, for "pan-Arab unity," and for international detente to solve the "gigantic problems" facing the world.

Lebanon

Amal has sent an estimated 32 Syrian-supplied tanks to the south to reinforce its positions east of Sidon and in Iqlim al-Tuffah, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported citing Amal sources. The radio also cited a French magazine report that Syria is to transfer about 800 Hizballah fighters from Beirut to the south.

"Resistance fighters" attacked "agent Lahd's militia" in Al-Qantarah and "foiled" an Israeli attempt to advance on Kafr Rumman town after "fierce battles" 8 March, Beirut's Voice of National Resistance radio reported.

In another development, the Lebanese Ba'th Party claimed responsibility for an attack on a South Lebanese Army (SLA) position in "the northern part of the security strip," Beirut's Voice of Lebanon radio reported, adding that the Ba'th Party has "rarely" attacked the SLA and the Israelis in the past 2 years.

Rushdie Affair

The Revolutionary Justice Organization, which is holding two American hostages in Lebanon, announced it is ready to "carry out the death sentence on Salman Rushdie," Beirut's Voice of Lebanon radio reported. A statement issued by the organization said Britain is held responsible "in advance" for the human losses that might result from the organization's actions.

Libya

"Extremist religious movements" such as the Muslim Brotherhood and others, which arise from "non-Arab" sources, are trying to obtain power for themselves in the name of religion, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi declared in a speech marking International Women's Day broadcast by Tripoli television. These extremists are "jealous" of the Arabs who are the "imams of the Muslims," and they want religion to prevail over pan-Arabism, he asserted.

He warned that women will be the "victims" if religion triumphs over the "social element" and that governing in the name of religion would be a "disaster for society." People's heads are being cut off today by the "whim of a theocratic ruler" who is like the Ottoman caliph, he contended.

In discussing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Al-Qadhdhafi castigated Israel for "crimes" against the Palestinians not done "even by Hitler himself."

Afghanistan

Security Situation—The Afghan military are "resolutely defending their positions" in Nangarhar and Qandahar Provinces, according to an Army High Command statement broadcast by Kabul radio. The statement calls on all commanders and groups who want an end to war and bloodshed to ensure security in their areas and not allow "warmongering extremists" to embark on destruction and bloodshed.

Kabul Airport was closed in the afternoon of 8 March due to "enemy rockets," AFP reported, adding it is "not clear whether rockets have fallen in the vicinity of the airport."

Mujahidin Activities—The first meeting of the mujahidin "interim government of Afghanistan" is to be held "somewhere near Jalalabad" on 9 March, Islamabad radio reported. In a related development, Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, prime minister of the interim government, broadcast his first address to the Afghan nation 8 March.

According to Islamabad radio, he congratulated the people on their successes in the military field, and outlined his government's foreign policy of fraternal relations with neighboring countries and relations based on "mutual understanding and Islamic teaching" with other countries of the world, Islamabad radio reported.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia has decided to "officially recognize the Afghan government chosen by the Afghan mujahidin," SPA reported 9 March.

Iran-Iraq Negotiations

An Iraqi delegation began "technical talks" on 8 March with the UN secretary general's representative Jan Eliasson in preparation for direct talks between Iran and Iraq scheduled for later this month in New York, Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio reported.

Sudan

A trade union "memorandum" in response to Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's recent news conference remarks contained a "categorical denial" that the unions have agreed to "suspend strikes," MENA reported. The memorandum reiterates that the unions' cooperation with the government "is contingent upon implementation of the program signed 2 March."

Al-Mahdi has accepted a United Nations request for a cease-fire in southern Sudan to enable "major relief operations" to be undertaken, according to a UN spokesman cited by AFP.

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi Receives Message From Soviet Leadership

JN0803183789 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] The Palestinian leadership has received a message from the Soviet leadership on issues of mutual interest. Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, received the message during a meeting with his excellency the Soviet ambassador to Tunisia on Monday.

Hurani Criticizes U.S. Stance on Dialogue

LD0903093189 Kuwait KUNA in English 0832 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Kuwait, March 9 (TANJUG)—PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani criticized in statements published here today the U.S. for reluctance to resume PLO-U.S. dialogue.

Hurani, who was member to the Palestinian delegation that took part in the dialogue with the U.S., told local newspaper AL-ANBA' that the U.S. aims at creating confusion in the region.

The U.S., he added, wants to stem Palestinian peace efforts and to draw them into internal disputes.

The active Soviet role in the region was also another reason behind the U.S. stance of non-resumption of dialogue with the PLO, Hurani noted.

Furthermore, he highlighted that the U.S. is dissatisfied with the recent PLO proposal urging Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon for coordinating stands prior to the convocation of the international conference on the Mideast.

The Soviet Union expressed support to the said proposal.

Hurani said contacts conducted in the occupied territories between Israeli and Palestinian figures are not aimed at transcending the PLO as the organization is aware of such contacts.

Mahmud 'Abbas Holds Amman News Conference Discusses 'Zionist Terrorism'

JN0803210089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Amman, 8 Mar (INA)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu Mazin, has affirmed the Palestinian Arab people's determination to continue the uprising being staged in the occupied Arab territories, considering that this uprising is the proper response to ceaseless Zionist terrorism.

At a news conference held here today, Abu Mazin called on the world news media to expose the methods employed by the Zionist terrorism and said: The killing of Palestinian children, women, and elderly people; opening fire on demonstrators in the occupied territories; the Zionist raids against Palestinian camps in Lebanon; and other Zionist tactics are manifestations of pure terrorism.

'Abbas added: We do have the right to fight the Israeli army, which is killing our women and children and attacking our people's camps with planes.

Abu Mazin indicated that his talks with Jordanian officials fall within the framework of the constant Palestinian-Jordanian coordination and added that they focused on Shevardnadze's tour of the region.

The PLO Executive Committee member described the Soviet role in the regional peace process as a basic and important one and said that the Soviets have entered the Middle East arena through its widest doors. He went on to say that the Soviets are accepted by all parties.

Mahmud 'Abbas indicated that the European stand has developed a great deal since the issuance of the PNC resolutions. He added that the European states have taken advanced, albeit disparate stands.

On the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, Abu Mazin said that this dialogue has begun but has not been resumed on the pretext that the U.S. Administration is still in the process of crystallizing its stand. He added: We are awaiting this.

Abu Mazin said that the previous U.S. stand approved in principle of convening the international Middle East peace conference. He added that the insistence on holding direct negotiations before the convening of the international conference "is something we reject and do not accept."

'Abbas pointed out that the negotiations must be held with the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and not with those selected by any Arab or non-Arab party. He indicated that the PLO seeks the convening of an Arab summit to bring about solidarity with the Palestinian people and their uprising and reach a solution to the Lebanese people's issue.

Mahmud 'Abbas denied that there are efforts to reconcile the PLO to the Syrian regime and said: There was a Soviet idea on the holding of a meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and Shevardnadze in Damascus. However, these efforts have not succeeded because of the Syrians' refusal to extend an official invitation to Yasir 'Arafat, as they do not desire the normalization of relations with the PLO. It is well-known that the Shevardnadze-'Arafat meeting was held in Cairo.

Concluding his news conference, 'Abbas said: We in the PLO bless any Arab cooperation whether that cooperation is manifested in the creation of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Maghreb Union, or the Arab Cooperation Council.

Mahmud 'Abbas is expected to conclude at a later time this evening a 2-day visit during which he conveyed a message from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to King Husayn of Jordan and met with a number of Jordanian officials.

Views Syrian-PLO Relations

JN0903095089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas stated yesterday that Damascus does not wish to normalize its relations with the PLO. He said that the Syrians have not yet agreed to the idea of holding a preparatory meeting on the international Middle East peace conference.

Mahmud 'Abbas said this when he met journalists in Amman where he has been visiting for the past 2 days. 'Abbas was received by King Husayn, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim. At his meeting with the journalists in the Jordanian capital, Mahmud 'Abbas said: There are no eforts toward attaining a reconciliation between Damascus and the PLO. He added that during USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's tour of the region, there was a Soviet proposal to arrange a meeting in Damascus. He said: However, this meeting did not take place because we have set as a condition that the invitation must come from Syrian officials. He added: But we did not receive such an invitation.

Mahmud 'Abbas also explained that Syria has not, as yet, agreed to the idea of holding a preparatory meeting on the international conference comprising Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and the PLO. Yasir 'Arafat had invited these countries early this month and had affirmed that Damascus agrees to participate in such a meeting.

On U.S. Talks, Soviet Role

JN0903075289 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9-10 Mar 89 pp 1, 2

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Najwa Najjar]

[Text] Amman—Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Mahmud 'Abbas said Wednesday the recent visit of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to the Middle East heralds the high-profile diplomatic role that Moscow would be playing in solving the Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly the Palestinian problem.

'Abbas, who left Jordan Wednesday after two days of talks on the latest developments in the region and results of Shevardnadze's meetings with the leaders of the involved parties during his five-state visit in February, said:

"The Soviet Union places the Palestinian cause at the top (of its agenda) or among its top priorities during discussions with the Americans, Europeans or other parties."

'Abbas, talking to a small group of reporters, said the Soviet Union had asserted itself as an important party in efforts to settle the Middle East conflict and the Soviet presence had been accepted by all sides to the conflict.

'Abbas said he expected moves in the next six to nine months to follow up on Shevardnadze's proposals calling for ministerial-level meetings among the permanent member states of the U.N. Security Council, talks between the U.N. secretary general and the parties involved in the Middle East conflict and discussions among the involved parties themselves to prepare for an international conference.

"Both the U.S. and the European states support these efforts," said 'Abbas, adding that the European countries had made "great strides" in the wake of the new Palestinian strategy that emerged at the Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting in Algiers in November and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat address to the U.N. in Geneva in December.

The involvement of the superpowers and support of the international community are considered by 'Abbas as crucial in the implementation of any solution, "since it has been proven that none of the conflicts in Afghanistan, Nicaragua, South Africa and Cyprus can be resolved without the superpowers."

However, he pointed out that there had been no real substance so far in the PLO-U.S. dialogue. "The excuse we were given was the U.S. position had not yet crystallised," he said. "So we will wait until the new American administration crystallises its position and then ask for the talks to focus on issues in a direct and bilateral manner."

'Abbas remains "optimistic" about the situation, saying "peace is a one-way street" and "the people of Israel must be convinced of the need to reach peace." However, he rejected any proposals for direct Arab-Israeli negotiations outside the context of an international conference.

"The U.S. supports an international conference, but we do not know how our rejection of bilateral talks prior to such a conference will effect the PLO-U.S. talks," he said. "Of course, direct negotiations will take place between all the parties at the international conference," he conceded.

Similarly, 'Abbas rejected Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's suggestion that Jordan and Egypt choose Palestinian representatives acceptable to the Israelis and that elections be held in the occupied territories.

"Negotiations must take place with the legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people and the representatives chosen by the Palestinian people, not any representative chosen by the Arab or non-Arab parties," 'Abbas said.

He said Shamir's proposal for elections "is not aimed at solving the Palestinian problem, but at ending the intifadah [uprising]."

"We have tried elections (under occupation) before and we want to ask the Israelis: Where are those who were elected then?"

"Killed, wounded, fired from their jobs or expelled," he answered himself.

"If the Israelis want to discuss representation, the Palestine National Council represents Palestinians inside and outside (the land of Palestine); but if they want to discuss the intifadah, we understand their objectives," he said.

Replying to a question on remarks attributed to 'Arafat that the PLO would be ready to accept a state without armed forces, 'Abbas said: "We agree on a state free of arms in an area free of arms."

'Abbas vehemently opposes the intifadah or armed resistance operations being equated with "terrorism."

"We condemn terrorism, but we do not say that armed struggle and the intifadah are part of terrorism," he said. "It is our right to fight against the Israeli army which kills our people, children and women."

He refused to comment on U.S. Secretary of State Howard Baker's statement Tuesday that Palestinian attacks on Israel from Lebanon could not be labelled "terrorist acts." 'Abbas said he preferred to wait until he received the full text of Baker's remarks.

Asked about 'Arafat's statement that he was willing to visit Israel if there was an Arab concensus, 'Abbas said: "'Arafat did not say that he would visit Israel if the Arab countries agree, but that everything can happen within the context of Arab agreement. Negotiations with Israelis at an international conference is an Arab agreement."

At the same time, he said, the ongoing dialogue between some Israeli and Palestinian personalities "Has our approval. We organise the seminars between Israelis and Palestinians. If they did not have our approval, they (seminars) would not take place."

'Abbas said despite the "inflexible" positions adopted by Israeli government officials, particularly members of the Likud bloc, the PLO would not change its "moderate line" for three reasons.

"One, our change in politics was strategical, not tactical; two, the intifadah will continue, and finally we understand the dynamics in the Israeli and American societies, and believe that these dynamics will force the two governments to change their positions," he said, adding that Israel and U.S. must fall in line with international legitimacy.

The PLO favours confederal relations with Jordan, 'Abbas said. "The confederation between the two independent countries is part of future plans," he said.

'Abbas added that any discussion on the confederation concept, "is still ahead of its time."

PNSF Operations Against Israel To Escalate

JN0903121589 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 7 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that, at an expanded meeting a week ago, the factions working under the Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] adopted important decisions pertaining to the escalation of military operations against the Israeli forces of occupation in southern Lebanon. Informed Palestinian sources told AL-ITTIHAD that orders have actually been issued to many of the combat groups belonging to the PNSF factions to carry out qualitative operations in occupied northern Palestine. As a result of this, these sources expected an escalation of the confrontation between the Palestinian factions and the Israeli forces in southern Lebanon.

'Arafat Issues Call to Nabulus 'Heroes'

JN0803215489 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1805 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Call from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de gurre Abu 'Ammar, to the "heroes of Nabulus"—date not given; read by announcer]

[Text] O heroes, I greet you and press your hands individually. I press the hand of every child, woman, and man. I tell you that your people are looking toward you and support you, that your Arab nation is watching your struggle, and that the world is watching your legendary struggle against the Zionist fascist tyrants who think that they can defeat your will or extinguish the flame of jihad and struggle in your hearts. However, you are now teaching them lessons in pride, loftiness, patriotism, and dignity. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Fain would they extinguish God's light with their mouths, but God will not allow but His light should be perfected, even though the unbelievers may detest it. [Koranic verses]

Show more steadfastness and perseverance, O heroes of Jabal al-Nar [Nabulus]. With your sacrifices, pains, and jihad, you are drawing the map of a free homeland on the atlas of existing reality, whether the Zionists like it or not. The dawn is imminent. The victory is imminent. Our independent state is within a stone's throw. If you will aid the cause of God, he will aid you and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verses]

[Signed] Your Brother Abu 'Ammar

Newspaper Labels Israel's Shamir 'Mr No'
JN0303211189 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1749 GMT 3 Mar 89

[FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH editorial, "central organ of the PLO," entitled: "Mr No" and published in the 3 March issue—read by announcer]

[Text] [Words indistinct] world news agencies and television networks on Mr Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, is Mr No. Shamir has nothing to say in response to all the questions that the intifadah [uprising] has raised on the world level except the word no. The intifadah has prompted reporters and politicians to direct all these questions to Shamir in his capacity as the man responsible for the Israeli policy of repression against the Palestinian uprising and its masses.

Shamir tries in vain to convince his listeners and to provoke their sympathy by reminding them of the massacres against the Jews. They listen to him restively because they are not asking him what happened more than 40 years ago but about the ongoing repression, killing, and tyranny in the occupied territories at the hand of the Israeli occupation army.

Commenting on the Israeli campaign to counter the Palestinian diplomatic offensive that started in Algiers and Geneva, THE NEW YORK TIMES says that Israel's diplomatic campaign has met with abject failure on the international level. The Israeli campaign has so far not realized any tangible results, and it is unlikely that the Israeli leaders, with their current political stands, can create a reality that is opposed to the Palestinian political initiative on the international level.

In Paris, Shamir heard useful words on the impossibility of reaching a solution without dialogue with the PLO. In Tokyo, and when Israeli President Hayim Herzog arrived, the Japanese foreign minister issued a very frank statement saying that Japan supports convening the international conference for peace and the PLO participation in this conference as equal partner with the other parties concerned. The Japanese foreign minister added that his country is looking forward to Israel's response to this comprehensive international desire.

In Cairo, Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze left no room for equivocation or misinterpretation when he said that the PLO must attend the meeting of the preparatory committee of the international conference and the conference sessions themselves. Shevardnadze invited brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to dinner and held 3 and ½ hours of talks with him, the longest meeting by Shevardnadze with any Middle East official or president during this tour. Shevrdnadze told everyone very clearly that the international conference is not a separate solution or a means of circumventing facts in the Middle East, but the path that guarantees peace and security for all, adding that Israel will have no security unless peace and sovereignty for the Palestinian people are realized in an independent state.

In any case, the Soviet minister said there are two conditions for restoring ties between Moscow and Tel Aviv: Israel's agreement on the international conference and its readiness to negotiate with the PLO.

Commenting on this firm and decisive Soviet stand, which responds to Israel's amplification of Soviet gestures, the HERALD TRIBUNE says: General and great disappointment has gripped Israel as a result of this Soviet stand. Israel as a whole is aware of the importance of restoring ties with Moscow, but Shevardnadze dissipated recent Israeli illusions that there is a profound change in Soviet policy in Israel's favor.

The Soviet minister's tour strengthened the PLO position before U.S. fingers started to play here and there in our Arab region. And (regardless?) of the [word indistinct] in the Middle East, the central and important party in the Middle East is the PLO. The Israeli prime minister, who returned disappointed from Paris, must expect a historic meeting between Abu 'Ammar and the French president in [word indistinct] with all the significant impact this meeting will have on the future of peace and war in the Middle East.

The tours of Shamir, Rabin, and Arens in European capitals at this particular time reflect the real impasse of the Israeli Government following its failure to confront the intifadah and its failure to confront the Palestinian political initiative.

In truth, we are recording the results of the intifadah on the international level without falling under any illusions in terms of deep transformations in European and U.S. stands. Both are thinking of Israel's security more than they think of peace.

We are not in a hurry. We are not impatiently waiting to resume dialogue with Washington only for the sake of dialogue. We will be ready for dialogue with Washington when the U.S. Administration has something new with which to begin its Middle East policy.

Yes, we are in the stronger position, both on the ground and in international fora. The slow movement that we are witnessing here and there does not mean a retreat in our political march and struggle. The attempts to prolong the Israeli occupation will fail. The occupation has been

killed by sacred Palestinian stones. We are in the stronger position because the uprising is continuing and escalating. Today, Nabulus is burning in the face of the occupation and is recording rare examples of heroism in resisting the Israeli occupation. Nabulus now stands like a rock in the face of the repression, just like other areas of the occupied territory. It is taking the stand that it took when its great son, martyr Zafir al-Masri was killed. Nabulus is challenging repression today and will triumph as it triumphed when it supported Palestinian legitimacy and its leader Abu 'Ammar at the burial of its Martyr Zafir al-Masri, announcing its presence in the field behind the PLO, the leader of our great people's march.

Algeria

Bendjedid Installs Constitutional Council

LD0803222589 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Excerpt] President Chadli Bendjedid today officially installed the Constitutional Council in accordance with Article 153 of the Constitution. Its compositon is governed by Article 154 of the Constitution. The following members were appointed by the president of the Republic: Abdelmalek Benhabyles, chairman of the Constitutional Council and Ahmed Metatla and Mohamed Abdelwaheb Bakhchi. Two members were elected by the National People's Assembly: Ahmed Lamine Tarfaya and Kebir Kacim. Two members were elected by the Higher Court: Azzouz Nasri and Abdelkarim Sidi Moussa. [passage omitted]

Bendjedid, Iranian Oil Minister Hold Talks

LD0803235889 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] At the Presidency today, President Chadli Bendjedid received Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, Iranian minister of petroleum. The meeting took place in the presence of Sadek Boussena, minister of energy and petrochemicals.

On leaving the office of the president of the Republic, the Iranian petroleum minister spoke about the meeting:

[Begin Aqazadeh recording in Persian with superimposed Arabic translation] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our talks with his excellency the president focused on cultural, political, and economic cooperation, particularly in the domain of OPEC as the two countries have made great efforts to ensure stability within the organization. Today we realized that, as in the past, the viewpoints of Algeria and the Islamic Republic of Iran, are the same. We affirm that we must continue to seek to ensure this stability and to maintain this stability of prices, and to seek even an upward trend in prices.

At our previous meeting, we discussed bilateral relations and invigorating the joint committee for cooperation between the two countries. Finally, we consider Algeria a friendly, fraternal, and very close country. [end recording]

Joint Economic Communique Issued With Italy

LD0803131389 Algiers APS in English 1330 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Algiers, 7/3/89 (APS)—An Algerian-Italian joint communique was issued (?Monday) at the end of the official visit paid to Algeria by the Italian treasury minister. The two sides, the communique pointed out, examined means to promote bilateral cooperation through new relations of partnership.

In this context, it was agreed to adapt the financial instruments to the requirements of the present economic situation and encourage the setting up of relations of partnership under the form of joint companies.

In order to support these actions, the two sides agreed to increase the financial means for the renewal of the credits aimed at financing the supply of equipment, spare parts and other products. This credit line will thus complete the protocol of cooperation. In the same context, the two sides defined a number of actions to be included in the frame of the aid program.

It is worth recalling that the Italian minister, Guilliano Amato, paid an official visit to Algeria from 4 to 6 March at the invitation of Finance Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali.

During this visit, Amato was audienced by President Chadli Bendjedid and the head of government, Kasdi Merbah.

He also had talks with Minister of Energy, Chemical and Petrochemical Industries Sadek Boucena, with Minister of Commerce Mourad Medelci and with Minister of Heavy Industry Mohamed Gharib.

Egypt

President Mubarak Departs on European Tour

NC0903084389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0821 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 9 Mar (MENA)—This morning, President Husni Mubarak and Mrs Mubarak left Cairo for a 2-day working visit in Brussels. The visit is part of a European tour that includes the Netherlands and the FRG.

Soviet Ambassador Views International Conference

NC0803142189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1303 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Mar (MENA)—Gennadiy Zhuravlev, Soviet ambassador in Cairo, has stressed his country's support for convening an international conference to solve the Middle East issue. He noted that the main task now of the foreign policy of his country and that of the European Community is to ensure that a solution to this problem is not deferred. The Soviet ambassador said that we must benefit from the recent change in the U.S. position to hold a dialogue with the PLO.

In an interview with the weekly magazine AKHIR SA'AH published today, the Soviet ambassador said his country wants an international peace conference to convene without any limitations or conditions. Once agreement has been reached to convene it, we could, through the United Nations, assign roles, establish the working procedures, and even prepare it, he added.

The Soviet ambassador said that the proposal raised by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze during his recent tour of a number of countries in the region should be discussed. It calls for convening an Arab conference attended by Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, and the PLO to prepare the grounds for an international conference and to adopt a unified Arab stand on the Middle East issue.

Ambassador Zhuravlev called on Israel to adopt a more realistic stand on the current situation. He noted that during Minister Shevardnadze's visit to Israel [as received] an exchange of views took place on the Palestinian issue, adding that this was a preliminary discussion.

The Soviet ambassador said that the Palestinian uprising cannot be stopped. He described Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's visit to Egypt during his recent tour of the region as a turning point in Egyptian-Soviet relations. During the visit, he added, an agreement was signed to construct the 4th unit in the chemical plant [not further specified] and the Soviet Union pledged to provide this plant with whatever it needs.

It was also agreed to renovate, expand, and double the output of the iron and steel plant, to set up a glass plant in 10 Ramadan City, and to renovate an aluminum plant in Naj' Hammadi and increase its production by 50 percent. The discussion also focused on the possible construction of a separate power plant near Naj' Hammadi to provide electricity for the aluminum plant, in view of the increasing cost in electricity charges, he added.

Conveys Shevardnadze Message

NC0803150189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Mar (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev today. The Soviet ambassador covneyed a message from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze expressing his thanks and appreciation to Egypt and President Mubarak for the welcome accorded him on his recent visit to Cairo.

Following the meeting, the Soviet ambassador said that he briefed Dr 'Abd al-Majid on the results of the contacts made by the Soviet foreign minister with the foreign ministers of Britain, France, West Germany, and the United States. He added that the European foreign ministers expressed support for the international conference to discuss a peaceful settlement in the Middle East while the U.S. secretary of state expressed the need to search for a peaceful settlement. The ambassador said that the U.S. secretary of state and the Soviet foreign minister will meet again in May.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks on International Women's Day

LD0803155289 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1157 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at a meeting in Banghazi organized by the Federation of Libyan Women's Societies on the occasion of International Women's Day—live]

[Excerpts] To start, I would like to welcome the sisters who came from various Arab countries to hold this meeting on this land—the land of Arabs and the state of Jamahir [the masses]. This meeting is being held on 8 March. For us, as Arabs, this date is an occasion to celebrate. It is one of the pan-Arab festivals, because a revolution took place in one our Arab countries, Syria, on that date. So today is a public holiday in Syria and in Libya. It should also be a public holiday in Egypt. I am not sure, however, whether Egypt still looks forward to such a date or whether it has stopped festivities to mark 8 March.

We mark today—8 March—because of the revolution which took place on this date. On that date the unionist and pan-Arab forces in Syria stood up against the division. However, we, as unionists, have always called upon Syria to oppose division and establish unity. Instead of the divisionist regime, a unionist regime should have been established. This option was open to Syria before Egypt entered the Stable David accords. Following Egypt's joining of the Stable David accords we can no longer call upon Syria to unite and reestablish unity with Egypt, which has become part of the hostile camp. We salute this date. All services are being halted in Libya in order to mark this date. We also celebrate here.

This day also concides with what the United Nations General Assembly calls International Women's Day. Any UN member is requested to allocate one day as women's day, it does not have to be 8 March. Any country may choose any day and consider it International Women's Day, as long as there is such a day, in the same way as the United Nations General Assembly decided to mark International Children's Day. However, and unfortunately, the UN intentions and aims behind creating such occasions are not fully understood by a number of countries, particularly third world countries.

Some countries deviate from such occasions. For example, International Children's Day became a tragedy in a number of countries which misunderstood the meaning of International Children's Day. Women who do not have children think that such an occasion commemorates the bringing up of children; those women who have children should celebrate such an occasion. As for the woman who cannot have children or whose children have died, such an occasion is a tragedy. [passage omitted]

It is feared that women's day may not be correctly understood when the United Nations General Assembly decides to observe this day. With the passage of time the idea will become a formality like celebrating the anniversary of the birth of Christ or the new year. With the passage of time, it has become a noisy notorious occasion more than anything else. Originally it was not like this. It is feared that these international days may become something like this.

This is the first time that I am speaking on such an occasion—that is, women's day. [applause] But as I was given the opportunity to speak and in appreciation of your presence and the presence of those from other Arab countries and from various regions of the Libyan Jamahiriyah, I would like to explain the significance which I personally derive from the United Nations General Assembly's decision in this connection—women's day. [passage omitted]

When the United Nations decided to have a day for women, it meant that there was something acting against women and that they needed international protection. We used to believe that Arab women were persecuted by the Arab male and at times we can say that oriental women generally have not gained their full rights. They were looked upon merely as females. But when the United Nations decided to observe this day in 1977, it signified that women everywhere in the world need some protection and care. The United Nations thought this was true in America, Alaska, the North Pole, Europe, Africa, Asia—everywhere.

This confirms the explanation in Chapter 3 of the Green Book on this issue. The United Nations supported us. Women everywhere still need to struggle hard, and we stand by them and fight by their side, so that they reach the status to which they are entitled as human beings. [passage omitted].

I would like every foreign delegation to take the Green Book Chapter 3—and all its explanations and footnotes—with them. I do not believe that it will be confiscated at airports or at borders. If it is confiscated, it will be very odd. Why should any Arab regime confiscate Chapter 3, which is the social part? We are not discussing Chapter 1, which concerns solving the political problem. Forget it. I do not want to annoy our brothers with Chapter 1 or Chapter 2, which concerns the equal redistribution of wealth among the members of society. We want Chapter 3 which concerns the social part. [passage omitted] Women are oppressed everywhere in the world. If you go to Britain and say that British women are oppressed and persecuted and have not gained their place as human beings, they will tell you that they have nothing to say. They are members of the United Nations. They have decided this, and the United Nations has decided this; it did not specify one state but it said the whole world must observe one day for women. This means that women everywhere need such a day. Why is there no day for men? [sparse applause; passage indistinct]

I consider it useful for the revolution generally. It confirms that women suffer deprivation and that the world bears witness to this deprivation. There is no men's day, which shows that man has gained his rights and thus there is no need to stand up for him. [repetitive passage omitted]

Who persecuted women? There are only women and men. It is men who persecuted women and not demons or angels who persecuted them. The latter do not exist in real life. It means men. Clearly, human society comprises men and women. [repetitive passage omitted]

So women are in a state of animosity, enmity, or confrontation with men. If this is the case, one must wage a struggle. We are supported by the United Nations and its resolutions which seek the liberation of women. When we wage a struggle we are supported by the United Nations and we are implementing UN resolutions. [passage omitted]

The United Nations decided that women are persecuted. The United Nations did not say that women should launch a revolution, but it is enough that the United Nations said that women are persecuted and allocated an international day for them. [passage omitted]

The women's revolution will be supported in all continents of the world, in contrast to any other revolution by another sector of society. As for the students' revolution in South Korea, you did not hear that the world and the United Nations supported it. It is a crisis that Korea should deal with. But if there is a women's revolution, even the United Nations will support it, because it was actually the United Nations that stated and recognized that women are persecuted. That is why the United Nations asked all countries of the world to allocate a day for women.

From this point we must do our best to incite women everywhere in the world to launch a revolution. Not necessarily on the same day. You could prepare for it next year, God willing, [laughter], or the following year, and we agree a zero hour [laughter], daytime or nighttime, on 8 March, and then there is a revolution everywhere in the world. [passage omitted]

Beginning 8 March and in the coming few days following the end of the current General People's Congress session, the feminine revolutionary forces in Libya should start setting up women's people's congresses for all ages so that the authority will be equally shared between men and women; the Jamahiriyah should be managed by men

and women. It should be managed not through appointments, fabrication, or the monopoly of posts, but by making women reach such post through resolve and choice.

Presently there is a falsification process that streches from Libya to the rest of the world. In a number of countries, namely Arab countries, they appoint a woman as minister for social affairs. As you can see, in the Arab countries they allocate the ministry of social affairs to a woman. Indeed, this is a fabrication and a joke. What does it mean to allocate the ministry of social affairs to a woman? A woman has a right to be appointed to any post. What is this social affairs ministry? Why can't a woman be a minister of defense?

To allocate a particular ministry is a humiliation to a woman and an admission of her inequality with man. It is recognition of the fact that there is oppression and suppression, that women deserve to have an international day, and that women deserve to launch a revolution on this day. He who allocates the Ministry of Social Affairs to a woman in fact condemns himself. [passage omitted]

There should be a woman's revolution in any country that appoints a woman to the post of social affairs. Women should request that either women should be treated as equals in posts or no woman should accept this post. This is a fabrication. [passage omitted]

Therefore a woman should shoulder her responsibility and take a job that restores her humanity to her. Otherwise there would be no benefit from such a meeting and such a date if there had been no agreement in this hall to launch a revolution. Everyone should understand that such a revolution will be carried out not with guns, grenades, or tanks—these are unnecessary. A woman might be able to hold whatever position she wants in society through peaceful means at the dawn of the next 8 March, or the following one. In my opinion it should be carried out thus and without any secret activity.

Let us all state here that as from today's meeting an agreement has been reached to incite an international female revolution in the Arab homeland, in the Third World, in Europe, in the United States, in Latin America, and throughout the world. A day should be set for next year, next March or later, to carry out such a revolution. It will do no harm if the male-dominated authorities heard the news and on 8 March 1990 deploy police in the streets and erect barricades.

Very well, all this will be another gain for women. Women should then demand negotiations with the authorities to resolve the problem through friendly means without using force. A given formula will then be reached to lift martial law, the barricades will be removed as there will be no need to threaten with them if the danger of a women's revolution no longer exists. Regrettably, however, we have tried to give the subject....[interrupted by chanting]

It seems strange to discuss women in this era and this period, particularly in our backward societies. I mean, for example, when an Arab country writes in its constitution and its social constitution that a woman is an imperfection. If she walks in front of you—excuse me for saying so—you have to wash yourself before you can pray. Women are like a man's shoes: he can put them on or off whenever he wants. How is it that a country in this time can make such statements? It will take you for a fool if you try to tell it that a woman should be sacred and respected. Well, they cannot understand that.

A cultural revolution is needed to change the world's understanding of women. Like our culture about Hitler. Who would say that Hitler was as we understand him today? Hitler was a national hero for Germany; to his enemies he was a dangerous man. He was a politician but he committed very serious political mistakes against the world or against his country. His mistakes were political and have often been committed by others. They do not mean, however, that such a man was a devil. The hideous crimes being committed by the Jews today were not committed by Hitler himself.

No one in the world today would, however, say that the Jews are wicked people who should be tried, executed, burned, and annihilated because they are a threat to mankind. Such things are said about Hitler. The Jews' actions in Palestine and Lebanon and their hunting down of Palestinians and their enemies in the world are all crimes which were not even carried out by Hitler himself.

If you now say that the Jews or the Israelis—the sons of Israel—are dangerous and the race should be annihilated, then you will be placed on a blacklist and considered anti-Semitic. However, such words against Hitler are permitted. Had Hitler triumphed, the world's culture now would have been different. Hitler's enemies—the ones who did triumph—would have been the evil men and would have been blacklisted and nobody would have been able to talk about them. Nazism would have been a beautiful thing and something acceptable now, just as Zionism or Judaism or Israelism [as heard] or the establishment of the Israeli State in Palestine have now become acceptable in the world. Why? Because they triumphed over Hitler following World War II.

No matter how much we try to say that Hitler was a national hero to his own country and that the entire world was responsible for the outbreak of World War II—it was not just Nazism alone—and say that the Jews are criminals who were responsible for the outbreak of World War II and will be responsible for the outbreak of World War III and we should treat them like the Nazis. [sentence as heard] This is a fact, but it is difficult to

understand now. This is because the culture now prevailing is anti-Nazi. That is it. Nazism is an enemy of the Jews, therefore, there is sympathy for the Jews. No matter what the Jews do now they are now committing crimes uglier than those committed by Hitler and Mussolini.

Even now when we talk about women, we say that woman is a sacred human being and should be respected. She is better than man, she is an angel. It is difficult now to find ears to listen to such words. Such words may be acceptable to a philosopher. Even women do not believe such words now because women have been accustomed to being the opposite of that. [passage omitted]

Prophets alone are in charge of religion—the upholding of religion and otherwise! But we cannot deny the facts. Now we have hypocrisy. We have fear of the religious men and fear of being criticized by society—people have to abide by traditions and norms. In the name of such norms and traditions freedom, women, children, and the happiness of people have been sacrificed. Misery is spreading and bad behavior is secretly spreading. Had there been outspokenness right from the very beginning and equality [between men and women] and contracts between two parties [men and women] of their own free will, no party would have resorted to this. [passage omitted]

The most dangerous thing is the continuation of the so-called religious tendency of moving toward politics. Let us assume that the religious tendencies coming to us are coming from Asia and from non-Arab countries. Non-Arab Muslims are spreading Islamic calls, such as the Al-Da'wah, the Jihad, Takfir wa Hijrah, Tabligh, the Muslim Brotherhood, and Islamic Liberation. These calls are coming from Muslims who are not Arabs and they are spreading them in the Arab homeland. The victim in this case is naturally Arab nationalism, Arab unity, socialism and progress.

There is no doubt about this. This is because we fight each other and do not fight the enemy. By this we commit ourselves to unreasonable theories. The pan-Arab theory is reasonable, however, it means a nation becomes united. Can you unite a Libyan with an Indonesian or Afghan? This is impossible. But we will remain like this until doomsday without unity. We do not try to unite Libya with Tunisia, but we try to unite Libya or Tunisia with Indonesia! They say Muslims!

Also if a religious authority is established, women will be the first victims. Women will suffer a dangerous setback because the reactionary religious theory, and not the real religion of God, which is widespread now, especially the religious theories coming to us from non-Arab Muslims. [sentence as heard] In Farsi, the word for woman indicates something that should be covered and hidden from strangers if you go to the Indian subcontinent, then you will find that women should be hidden. Takfir wa Hijrah, Jihad, Tabligh and Al-Da'wah, all these extremist religious movements which want to obtain power in the name of religion. They stem from non-Arabs.

They are people who want religion to prevail over Pan-Arabism, because they are jealous of the Arabs who are the imams of the Muslims. They want to destroy pan-Arabism. That (Sayyid Qutb, who was executed in Egypt in the name of Islam, was not an Arab. The one who wrote books about the Islamic secret movments is not an Arab. The Afghani is an Afghani; Muhammad (Abdu), Jamal al-Din al-Afghani, and Hasan al-Banna, they are Masons, members of the Masonic movement which was established by the Jews in order to destroy pan-Arabism and all other nationalist movements. This is well known. At that time they used to say "We are Masons" but they did not think that the Masonics movement is that bad or dangerous.

If these movements become victorious, then their victim will be pan-Arabism. There is no doubt about this. The Arab nation will disintegrate, and Israeli nationalism will be victorious. The Israelis have grown strong. They did not call their state Jewish or something similar. They called it Israel after their ancestor. If there is nationalism, there is solidarity. There is Israeli nationalism, while there is no Arab nationalism or Arab nation, because we become Muslims—according to these sects—Muslims who belong to the Al-Da'wah, Muslims who belong to Tabligh, to Takfir wa Hijrah, and all these heresies. If the Tabligh and Takfir wa Hijrah are true, why are they not in the Koran? In the Koran there are five prayers, the pilgrimage and the fasting of Ramadan.

All the others are heresies, and the heretics will go to hell. This is the shari'ah for them. How can Takfir wa Hijrah say that all society is infidel? How can Tabligh say fast 45 days? How did Ramadan become 45 and not 30 days? We fast at Ramadan for 30 days as the Koran states. They make excuses: If you walk 3 days [words indistinct]. Let people get closer to God. They say either you fast for 45 days or it will be wrong! They say you should pray 50 times! This means that what Muhammad said was wrong. The Tabligh, Takfir wa Hijrah, and Jihad movements say that all that Muhammad said was wrong and they bring a new Koran. These calls are a threat to Islam.

However, if they win in the name of Islam, in addition to the fact that the Arab nation and pan-Arabism will be annihilated, Israeli nationalism and the other nationalities around us, the wild ones and the Europeans will win, but the human victims will be the women. We are speaking on 8 March, International Women's Day. If these movements are victorious, women will be the victims.

It really makes me feel sorry to see a woman made a fool of and become a member of these movements that will slaughter and desecrate her. Women are a profanity for them and should be hidden. For instance, we find a

woman listens to someone obsessed with such movements. She follows him and then joins a religious movement that is staged in the name of religion—but is not really religious.

Religious women will be the victims. The woman who joined it is very stupid. It is the same as an Arab who joins an international movement that is non-Arab and that is hostile to Arab nationalism whether in the name of Islam or progress. It is because that movement is basically aimed at destroying Arab nationalism. Being a stupid Arab, he joins it. An Arab who joins the Muslim Brotherhood—a non-Arab Muslim movement, a movement of Muslims who profess Islam—is against Arabs. The Tabligh is a movement originating in Asia which is hostile to Arab nationalism. In the name of Islam they have entered the Arab world to destroy Arab nationalism.

Even the communist internationalist movement, or the Marxist movement, is hostile to nationalism. An Arab who becomes a member would be destroying his own nationalism. You can be Arabs and progressive or Arabs and Muslims yet not belong to a movement that destroys Arab nationalism or the Arab nation. Any Arab is stupid in this case if he becomes a member of the Muslim Brotherhood, the Tabligh movement, the Takfir wa Hijrah, the Jihad, the Al-Da'wah, or the antinationalism internationalism.

Why don't the Israelis abandon their nationalism and leave Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and the Palestinians return as free men to Tel Aviv and Haifa if there are no longer any nationalisms? The United States would give us some of its capabilities; we would go and buy some of its missiles. Since I am the transgressed, I would go and get a U.S. missile to use it against my enemy on the basis that there is no longer any nationalism and that there is no distinction between you and them.

It is not like this at all. If not, why is there hostility between the Soviet Union and the United States, hostility which makes the world live in fear of the consequences. Here we have Russian nationalism and U.S. nationalism. If you are an Arab, how could you be so stupid as to abandon your nationalism? If we abandon nationalism, then fine; there will be no more hostility and no one will build even a single rifle because there will be no more opponents. But this will never happen. Even two neighboring tribes will fight one another right up to judgment day. The social element is the decisive factor. It is the basis of life and the one that forms the map of the world.

If religious thoughts triumph, women will be the victims. Religious thoughts of this nature are not progressive; neither are the ones which are anti-Arab since they are anti-women also. How can women join the veil movement, the Tabligh movement, the Takfir wa Hijrah movement, the Al-Da'wah, or the Muslim Brotherhood, especially when this movement considers women unclean and imperfect; they can never take their places. If someone governs in the name of religion it would be a disaster for society. This is because if someone makes a mistake you cannot tell him it is a mistake. He acts in the name of religion and it is theocratic authority.

Today people's heads are being cut off with swords according to the whims of a theocratic ruler. He can say what is permissible and what is not. If anything concerns him, he cuts off people's heads in the name of religion because he is in power or he has put himself in power as a religious ruler, like the Turkish caliph—the Ottoman caliph. He killed all the people.

In Syria you had Jamal Pasha—he took greater Syria and made it into a province. Here we had Karamanli. He created an independent hereditary state. In the name of Islam these people butchered us; they butchered the Arabs. The Turkish sultan butchered the caravans in the name of Islam. If we are Arabs and want to be independent, we will oppose God's ruler; he is the caliph of God's messenger. How can you disobey the caliph?

Whose caliph? The caliph of God's messenger. It means that you oppose God Himself. Your head would be cut off. Yet you are not against God and you are not an infidel. The infidels and the hypocrites are the ones who call themselves the caliph.

Who succeeded the messenger of God? The messenger of God did not name a successor. The closest person to him—Abu Bakr—he did not even name him as his successor. He did not write that Abu Bakr or 'Ali or 'Uthman were his successors. These were rulers—heads of republics—we respect them in as much as they were pious and useful to Muslims.

The Prophet was not a president of a republic. He had no deputy. Muhammad could have had a deputy and God could have said to him: So and so is your deputy. But as it did not happen, that is that. Anyone can come along afterward and proclaim that he is a president of a republic—a civilian regime—which is called the Islamic Shari'ah today. All these books are laws that have been written by Malik, Hanbal, and [name indistinct].

These are circumstantial laws; they were laid down by Malik, Hanbal, Ibath, or whoever. Any graduate from the faculty of law can write such laws throughout the world. These are like the Roman code or any other codes. It is a falsification to attribute these circmstantial laws to Islam. Islam has only one law—the Koran. Anyone who wants to apply the Koran may do so. There is no punishment mentioned in the Koran. The Koran does not mention prison, or jail, or executions. [words indistinct]

The Koran stipulates that a hand or foot should be amputated, or 100 lashes for fornication, or a thief's arms should be cut off. There are physical punishments in the Koran, that is that. The Koran never mentioned other punishments. God said that such punishment is

reserved for doomsday and that He is responsible for this. God did not say that there should be a judge or a court case. The Koran is full of proscription, advice, and culture. [indistinct interruption by unidentified man]

The one who steals his people's oil and spends the money on his family and for his own use and gives it to the United States is a real thief, whereas when there is a hungry person among his people who finds himself forced to steal [word indistinct] they amputate his hand in the name of Islam. What sort of Islam is this? Look at how they have misinterpreted the Koranic verse. Some people in some countries have many wives—a number that exceeds the limit. A man who goes to Europe every day to gamble with his people's money is not punished, whereas when a man loves a woman and they decide to marry the judge punishes them and questions their love. What is all this? This is the kind of falsification that exists these days. These sort of things have happened, I don't know whether you are aware of them.

We are following our path in a culture and circumstances full of historical accretions. We are pursuing our path toward equality, freedom, and reality with difficulty. What is happening today is false. I have reached the conclusion that if a ruler is appointed in the name of religion it will be a great disaster, because even if he follows the wrong path no one can tell him that he is not following the right path. How can you criticize the religious ruler who is acting in the name of God?

This is complete falsification because there is no one who acts in the name of God, except the Prophet. We just about believe that the Prophet is the messenger of God—this is the difficulty we have encountered—let alone believing in someone who comes and claims that he is ruling in God's name. Who among us can challenge the man who claims that he does everything in God's name? If the religious characteristic is attributed to any ruler, people should offer themselves for slaughter, because he is the one who starts to permits and prohibits whatever action, such as the Turkish caliph who murdered us in God's name.

In the name of God, the pan-Arabs were assassinated during Turkish rule. We are Arabs and we would like to independent from the Turks. They may be our brothers, fair enough, but they have their own nationalism and we have ours. They have their borders and we have ours. We realized that the merger between us and then in the name of the Ottoman empire affected us. We became their dependents and they murdered us; they treated us unjustly and criminally. The Arab nation had enough of injustice and demanded its independence.

The ruler said that this request for independence is straying from obedience to God because it means disobeying the caliph since this is the caliph of the Prophet, and the Prophet is God's messenger. Who appointed this so-called caliph, 'Abd al-Majid, or 'Abd al-Hamid, or Sulayman, the caliph of God's mesenger? He does not even understand the Arabic language. He never opened the Koran, never prayed, and never observed the month of Ramadan.

The person who had the courage was Mustafa Ataturk. He stood up and denied this falsification of the facts. He said: Are we lying? We are Turks; we don't read or understand the Koran. There is no Muslim Turkish ruler; there is no harm in the people embracing Islam. They can pray. The Turkish people are nice people. As for the ruler, he told them that there are no Muslim rulers. We do not understand the Koran—the religion of the Arabs. The Turks have no business in the Arabs' religion. This Prophet Muhammad was sent to the Arabs, not to Anatolia. God said: Bring blessings and confirm the revelation which came before it that you warn the mother of cities and all around her. God did not say bring blessing to the Turks. Ataturk was the one who had the courage. [passage omitted]

We had here 'Idris al-Sanusi [former Libyan King toppled by al-Qadhdhafi in 1969] who asserted that he was the Prophet's cousin. I am really not sure what the relationship between him and the prophet was. Just claim you are a relative of the Prophet and we will take you, Idris al-Sanusi, warmly in our arms. This is what really happened.

He brought the Americans here but no one said no. They said there must be some benefit in the Americans because they were brought here by the Prophet's cousin. He brought U.S. colonialism here and the base of Al-Malahah [Wheelus Field] as well as another five bases. He brought the British and no one said no. If such things had been done by someone else they would not have been accepted. However, since it was done by Al-Sanusi, a relative of God's Prophet, then it was alright.

Italians, who killed our people, came here. Twenty-thousand Italians occupied our country. He did not do anything about them despite the corpses of Libyan martyrs. They said as long as the Prophet's caliph or his cousin says the presence of Italians is harmless, how can we fight them? Libyans never carried out any fedayeen attack against Italians, British, or Americans because they had in mind that Al-Sanusi was the Prophet's descendant so it was alright for him to bring Italins, British, and Americans, he was the one who allowed them to be deployed.

Oil companies came here, discovered oil, and took it for themselves leaving us starving. They said it is alright as long as the king is there, he is the Prophet's cousin and is happy with this situation. How can any of you say he will then be against the Prophet and Allah.

Look, when the ruler gives himself a religious role he can sell the country and no one can resist him. He can take women as slaves and no one can resist him. Today, in the name of God and in the name of religious beliefs in Asia

and Africa, women are being taken as slaves and their honor is being violated in the name of God's ruler. This ruler is God's messenger—Mu'ammar is God's messenger. [sentence as heard]

If a member of Takfir wa Hijrah or the Muslim Brotherhood were to rule, you would see what he would do to you! He will tailor everything according to his liking in the name of God. However, you will not be able to resist him because he will say Islam says so. He will bring all the outdated books and try to prove to you that whatever he is doing is right. In fact, these outdated books have never been the Islamic faith itself. What is called the Islamic faith today is not the real Islamic faith. These are conventional books and a positive law. This is a situation which is difficult to end except through a cultural revolution. The other point is whether to say woman is sacred or is merely a man's shoes. How can you agree with him.

An Arab ruler said to me a woman is imperfect in her religion as well as her mind. I asked who says so. He replied: The Prophet. So I asked him how he can then say: Learn half of your religion from 'A'ishah's mouth. Well, whether the Prophet really said such a thing or someone else has mistakenly attributed it to him is another matter. If you say the Prophet did in fact say, learn half of your religion from 'A'ishah's mouth, I can tell you then that the Prophet did not say women are imperfect in their religion and in their mind. Then all the Prophet's saying will be doubted. You cannot impose something upon me nor can I impose something upon you. So we should then leave them aside and turn to the Koran—which is not the subject of any contentious argument—for a verdict.

He [the Arab ruler] said, furthermore, the Prophet said animals should be saddled for 3 destinations: Al-Masjid al-Haram [holy Mosque in Mecca], my mosque [in Medina], and Al-Masjid al-Aqsa [Mosque of the Dome in Jerusalem]. I told him the Prophet did not say this. Yazid ibn Mu'awiyyah said this when people went on the Hajj and joined Ali. He invented a false edict like this to prevent them from doing so. People would then go to Jerusalem which was under his rule. He made out that going to Jerusalem was like going to the holy mosque in Mecca. The Prophet would never have said my mosque is like the Ka'bah [Mosque in Mecca]. Never. If they are all the same we can merely go to the Prophet's mosque instead of the Ka'bah. This is wrong. There is no sacred place other than the Ka'bah. [passage omitted]

There is a Muslim who wrote a book that made a lot of noise in Iran. This is because he is not an Arab. He entered Islam without being an Arab. Islam is not for him; he harmed Islam. He wrote a book of 500 pages, in which he said that a large part of the Koran is Satanic verses, which are verses said by Satan. This title is "The Satanic Verses." He said that Satan is the one who inspired these verses. He said many bad things about Islam. However, the issue is not one of individuals but of a political struggle. The Christian and Jewish Western countries, not that author, are behind this book. They have exploited the non-Arabs who entered Islam for the destruction of Islam and the destruction of the Arabs and in order to create hostilities between us.

This book was not issued by a person. It was issued by the Christian and Jewish group together as a warning of a new crusade against the Arabs and against Islam. They exploited the non-Arab Muslims in order to sound this bell. The Arabs should protect their religion with their lives. If the Arabs weaken, Islam will weaken. The right and wrong are clear. We have no Shari'ah other than the Koran. Anyone who can should read and apply the Koran, for God asks no one to do more than possible.

We must stop the establishment of the new theocracy, that is, the new religious and political regime should be stopped. If there is a ruler in the name of Tabligh, Takfir wa Hijrah, Muslim Brotherhood, or the Islamic Liberation Party, then this means, beware—especially to women. They must wear veils, and they will become hidden. They will be married and divorced against their will and will be bought and sold because in the days of the caliphs, women were slaves to be bought and sold. The houses of the caliphs were full of female slaves. Women were an ornament and not treated as human beings. The caliphs did not treat women as human beings. Women were under the boots of men. Men used to do whatever they wanted. This is what caused problems. [repetitive passage omitted]

Before the religious phase, women were not persecuted. It is not God who persecuted women, it is those who pretend to be religious and who now are talking in the name of religion who persecuted women. They did that to fulfill their wishes, and to control all mankind, they exploited religion and started the religious authority by which they cut the people's throats.

Women should be concerned with resisting the movements which are spreading these days in the name of religion. They are a great threat against Arab nationalism and the Arab nation. They are in the interest of the Israelis and the Americans, and they are supported by the American CIA and Israeli Mosad. Women are the victims of these movements. [passage omitted]

The veil [hijab] means force. The doorman [hajib], haven't you heard of the doorman? It is someone who is armed and who stands at the door, keeping it. He is protecting his royal majesty the sultan, may God protect him and his offspring. [Al-Qadhdhafi is being sarcastic, audience laughs] This doorman is a strong person. Guardianshi, means force. It is a matter of force that a woman acquires diplomas like men, that she possesses arms like men, that she is trained, and that she has a noble character. This is the veil. As for its fabric, what would it protect? It protects nothing, otherwise a guard would be made of fabric to protect us from the enemy. A guard has to be strong.

(?In general), it is strange and we cannot understand those who say that a woman is a man's shoes, while we say that woman is sacred. In reality, the difference between us is great. We could not agree on this. But what is right in my opinion is that woman is sacred, that is, she is a human being who is in fact more sacred than man. The basis is the woman. [passage omitted] Someone may come and assert a woman without a man is nothing. No, she will not be nothing. Despite the woman's sacrifices she is still oppressed in such a manner that the United Nations in 1977 decided there should be an International Women's Day. In Europe they advertise: we need a driver for a coal train; whoever feels fit to carry out such a job should apply. If a needy woman comes along they will test her; if she passes they take her. They would not say: Well, she is a woman, maybe she is pregnant, has children or [words indistinct]. Well, she is a driver and that's enough. They write: a driver. They would not write: a female driver, just a driver. How is it that a women would drive a train in Europe? She does so because she is liberated, because she is in need, because she is compelled to do so, and because she had been oppressed. There is no need to ask her to do more than she can. Do you know that the salute to generals and rulers was in fact originally for women? [passage omitted]

Now, they say a woman is imperfect, that is, impure [words indistinct]. Well, really the man is the real impurity. Have you ever heard that a woman has broken into someone's house or [words indistinct]? [chants]. Have we ever seen in a police station a man who came crying and claiming that a woman has attacked him? The opposite occurs. All complaints in the world are made by women against men who have violated them. So who has morals? The woman, of course. Who always commits the violations? The man, of course. This means it is he who has no morals. Moreover, the woman would be blamed for it [words indistinct] because the societies are male societies. The law has been promulgated by men. Furthermore, they exploit religion to be more tyrannical and more oppressive.

Why has there always been opposition against the emergence of a woman? Because they are afraid that the oppressed women will be stronger and take revenge. I mean, there is a psychological barrier and fear. It is a psychological thing. Even in the Libyan General People's Congress, which is meeting next door, there is rejection and a hindrance for women. They would not appoint an assistant secretary because the secretary himself is afraid that she will have decisionmaking and authority and avenge herself on her archenemy. [applause] [passage omitted]

Women have become armed today and they are fighting in Palestine, or in the Armed Forces in Libya, or in Latin America. They are fighting beside men. Because women have become armed, then the word triss or tarrass [a Libyan word meaning male, which originally meant shield-bearer] which means shield-bearer, no longer refers to males only, it should refer to males and females. All these concepts have become obsolete. All this is a march toward equality, emancipation, and freedom. [passage omitted]

A percentage of women would be sufficient—let 5 percent devote themselves to women's revolution and to a monastic life, and let 95 percent get married and have children. There is no disturbance to childbirth in a situation like this. Through 5 percent of nuns [revolutionary women] we will probably reach 1 million nuns in the Arab homeland. A movement of 1 million revolutionary women is capable of creating a real revolution not only in the Arab homeland but in the world. [passage omitted]

We hear that the Army is threatening to stage a coup in Sudan in case the government fails. We never heard that women in Sudan are threatening to stage a coup if the war is not stopped in the south. Go and implement those principles. Women in Sudan, stage a revolution if the men are incapable. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified delegation from the Libyan women's delegation] Oppressive relations exist between men and women. We want to solve this problem through a sweeping women's revolution in the Arab homeland. I want to stress to my sisters the following: My sisters who opened this session stressed that Palestinian women are in Israeli prisons in occupied Palestine. They referred to the revolution of stones and the revolution of men, women, and children there. As a matter of fact, the revolutionary nun's movement is a movement whose aim is to make the Arab woman play her historic role and become a woman with a mission: protecting the cause and provoking and inciting the Arab man with every means possible to make this Arab man pay attention to the main issue—the issue of the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The movement is called the movement of revolutionary nuns. The nuns, in other words, have a revolutionary nature; they are not nuns in the sense we know. [passage omitted] The Christian nun devotes herself to Christ so that He can redeem her in the afterlife. This is known. Like that movement, we also have a movement of revolutionary nuns which devotes itself to the revolution. That is to say, there should be a group of Arab women who do not marry and bear children—let us assume that they constitute five percent [of the total number of women]. This is sufficient to set up a movement which has 1 million revolutionary nuns. An explanation of this movement should be distributed in the Arab homeland by the Libyan revolutionary nuns. I want us to leave this place with a resolution to spread the revolutionary nuns movement.

We should spread the revolutionary culture which is in the interest of women. We should prepare for a women's revolution that does not violate the law at all because it will conform with UN resolutions. In this revolution arms will not be used; no tanks will be used. This is

beneficial because we will save half of the Arab nation and bring it back to life; we will make women participate in life and politics, war and peace, management, thinking, and scientific research etc. This half will be liberated—this half which is colonized. If we liberate ourselves from foreign or outside colonialism we should liberate ourselves from internal colonialism too. I also hope that you will agree in your resolutions on the points we discussed. [repetitive passage omitted]

He who oppresses and insults women should be arrested; we should regard him as backward, criminal, savage, and reactionary. He is uncivil and inhumane; he should be rejected by society. He should not be allowed to get married because he does not give this human being—the woman—the respect she deserves. You should set aside a day for Arab women; you should adopt a stand in support of (Suha) who tried to get rid of the agent of Zionism—Lahd. [applause] She is still in the prison of the enemy; she is being tortured. We should expose the Israelis and their barbaric savagery as they torture this child who carried out her duty as a soldier in her own organization and for the sake of her nation and people. She should be treated as a prisoner of war as she carried out a military action against a military target. [passage omitted]

When your protests are voiced in the name of Arab women they will have a resounding echo; more than the echo to a man's protest. You should spread all over the world; you should hold seminars to explain the issue. You should write, make your demands, and stage demonstrations and sit-ins in the Arab world and all over the world, because your support for (Suha) is support for every fedayeen and struggle. It will encourage Arab women to carry out such heroic actions.

Your support will provoke the Arab man who retreats and recognizes the Israelis and seeks peace and coexistence with them—something which is impossible because the Israelis only live on our own bodies and at our own expense and future. The struggle between us is a struggle for existence and not for borders. The morale of all Palestinian Arab women and others in enemy prisons will be raised. (Suha) should be taken as a symbol for all prisoners and all female fedayeen. Forward and the struggle continues! [chants and applause]

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Accepts UN Cease-Fire Request in South

NC0803180889 Paris AFP in English 1716 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Khartoum, March 8 (AFP)—Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has accepted a United Nations request for a ceasefire in southern Sudan to enable major relief operations to be undertaken there, a UN spokesman announced here Wednesday.

Mr Mahdi agreed to a month-long ceasefire proposed by UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and said he hoped that rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) would follow suit, the spokesman said.

Officials from Britain, Canada, the European Economic Community (EEC), Italy, Japan, the United States, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other non-governmental organizations have gathered in Khartoum to discuss the urgent provision of 100,000 tonnes of food aid to southern Sudan.

A message from Mr Perez de Cuellar proposing the ceasefire was read to the conference by the executive director of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), James Grant.

There are an estimated 600,000 displaced people in need of food relief in mainly Christian and animist southern Sudan, where the SPLA is fighting for a secular state freed from domination by the mainly Muslim north.

Al-Mahdi Returns From 1-Day Visit to Libya

EA0803195489 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Prime Minister Mr Sadiq al-Mahdi returned to the country this morning after a brief 1-day visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah. He was received at the airport by ministers, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the chief of the general staff, the secretary-general of the Council of Ministers, members of the Constituent Assembly, and a number of senior state officials.

Comments on Visit

NC0803194589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1925 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Mar (MENA)—Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi returned to Khartoum this evening following a 1-day visit to Libya during which he attended the General People's Congress.

Al-Mahdi stated on his return that during his visit he discussed developments in the Arab Maghreb area, the objectives and idea of the Arab Maghreb Union, and ways to strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation.

He said that contacts are continuing with all the political forces in the Sudan with a view to achieving a solution to the internal situation in Sudan, unifying the domestic front, and forming a new government.

Ummah Party Official on Government, Crisis

JN0903110589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0945 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Doha, 9 Mar (WAKH)—Sudanese Ummah Party deputy leader Nasr al-Din al-Hadi al-Mahdi has stated that the new government will be announced on Saturday instead of today.

In an interview with Qatari paper AL-'ARAB issued here today, the Sudanese official said that Al-Tijani al-Tayyib will be appointed finance minister in the new government and that Bashir 'Umar [Fadlallah] will remain as information minister, and Mubarak al-Fadil [al-Mahdi] as interior minister.

Nasr al-Din al-Hadi al-Mahdi added that the Ummah Party had tasked Dr Bashir 'Umar to hold contacts with the various trade unions and organizations in Sudan to reach agreement on the representation of the modern forces in the new government.

In reply to a question on the Islamic National Front [INF], the Sudanese official explained that it refused to sign the program of the new government, and that it has made some obscure reservations. In this respect, he pointed out that INF Secretary General Dr al-Turabi had emphasized the importance of reaching an agreement on a formula for the participation of the modern forces, while another party in the front says that the modern forces cannot participate in the government as this is impermissible in accordance with the Constitution.

It is worth mentioning that the INF recently announced that it will not participate in an expanded government if the modern forces, the Communists, join it.

The Ummah deputy leader called on all forces in Sudan to achieve cohesion in the current stage as there are foreign hands seeking to undermine security, stability, and democracy in Sudan.

Rebels Address Khartoum Relief Conference
EA0803194789 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Excerpt] The official spokesman of the SPLM-SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement Army] issued the following press statement on the international conference on southern Sudan emergency relief to be held in Khartoum from the 8th to 9th March 1989:

1. The SPLM-SPLA has learned that an international conference on southern Sudan emergency relief will be held in Khartoum with the following objectives:

a. To determine food, medical and other needs among all the population adrift in the Sudan.

b. To inventory existing supply and logistical resources, and

c. To designate responsibilities among UN and other agencies for the urgent implementation during the month of April of procurement, transport, and distribution activity.

Since the SPLM-SPLA is not represented in the Khartoum conference, we seize this opportunity to state our position on the vital matter under consideration.

2. The movement appreciates the concern of the international community and their wish to help the needy people in Sudan. This concern is indeed commendable. It is common knowledge that the country has been afflicted by natural disasters in the last few years, such as drought and flood. As a result, population and cattle suffered much and many lost their lives. The SPLM-SPLA was from the start very much concerned about the plight of the famine-stricken population and has put up one appeal after another so that the international community could come to the rescue.

Our call was heeded by a number of agencies, but there were difficulties arising from Khartoum's reluctance to help these people. Despite this, something got started, albeit in very small quantity.

It is therefore to be reiterated that the movement is very keen to seek ways and means to ameliorate the situation and it is our wish that this conference will come out with concrete proposals and practical suggestions so as to do what is possible in the 60 days left of the dry season. The needs are immense and time is almost running out.

3. We would like to remind the meeting in Khartoum that more than 90 percent of the affected population in south Sudan are under SPLA administration. It is therefore logical that the meeting should devote a proportionate amount of attention to the situation in SPLA-administered areas and earmark assistance to them accordingly.

4. As the UN secretary-general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, spoke of a race against time, it is imperative that the conference pays great attention to transport by land. Relief can now be transported by land from Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia through SPLA lines and the whole population east of the Nile can be reached by land. Food can also easily be stored in warehouses in Kapoeta, Torit, Farajok, Nimule, Pibor, Nasir, Kongor, Pochala, and many other places under the SPLA. All these places can be reached by road transport over the next 60 days left of the dry season.

5. In addition to the above places, food can be transported to within 10 kms of Juba town by land from Uganda and Kenya.

6. The SPLM-SPLA is willing and ready to discuss all the above with the organisations and agencies now meeting in Khartoum, either as a group, in a conference similar to the one now being held in Khartoum, or singly.

7. We conclude by wishing all concerned to have the will and determination to see that this humanitarian undertaking succeeds in order to save lives and here ends the press statement. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister To Meet Rebels in Ethiopia

EA0803203289 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] The acting interior minister, Mr Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi, left for Addis Ababa this morning to represent the government at a meeting with leaders of the rebel movement to discuss a cease-fire and the convening of a constitutional conference as soon as possible. The interior minister has had a number of meetings in the past 2 months with representatives of the movement. He will also continue the dialogue with the Ethiopian leaders on bilateral relations.

Kuwait

Islamic Ministry Condemns 'Satanic Verses'

LD0903112689 Kuwait KUNA in English 1004 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Kuwait, March 9 (KUNA)—The Kuwait Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry Thursday condemned the "Satanic Verses" book authored by Indian-born British citizen, Salman Rushdie and published by Viking Penguin, and urged Muslims to ban the book and its British publishers.

A ministry statement today called on Moslems "to boycott this sinful book and all other publications from Viking Penguin to show a small contribution to defending Islam against any hostile parties."

The ministry added that "the author has slandered Islam and Muslims, blasphemed the holy Koran and defamed divine messengers."

Whilst affirming the ministry's respect for freedom of thought and expression, the statement pointed out that Rushdie had veered off objectivity and scientific research and outraged Muslim feelings by resorting to cheap fabrications.

Foreign Minister Contacts Lebanese Leaders

LD0803153689 Kuwait KUNA in English 1225 GMT 8 Mar 89

[By Salih Nazzal]

[Text] Kuwait, March 8 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Wednesday contacted over the telephone Lebanon's acting premier Dr. Salim al-Huss and head of the provisional military government there Gen. Michel 'Awn.

Shaykh Sabah told reporters that he asked both leaders to exert their utmost efforts to ease tensions in that sisterly country, expressing deep sorrow and pain for developments in Lebanon over the past few days.

He added that he tried to reach leader of the Progressive Socialist Party and Minister of Public Works Walid Junblatt on the telephone but he was not in Onan.

Shaykh Sabah announced that he will try again to telephone Junblatt in Damascus to discuss latest developments and to ask him to exert efforts to calm the situation.

The deputy premier, who is also heading a six-man Arab League committee entrusted with settling Lebanon's political crisis, hoped that the Lebanese would agree on realizing the great goal aspired for by the Lebanese people and the Arab national namely to extract Lebanon from its ordeal, restore security and stability and preserve its unity and independence.

Shaykh Sabah expected a few hours delay in the committee's third round of talks that was scheduled for March 17 in Kuwait since that date fell on Friday (the weekend here).

Saudi Arabia

Afghan Mujahid' 's Hikmatyar Arrives in Riyadh

LD0803222489 R 'h SPA in Arabic 2157 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 8 Mar (SPA)—Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, foreign minister of the provisional Afghan mujahidin govenment, arrived in Riyadh today. He was met on arrival at King Khalid International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Meets With Foreign Minister

LD0903112189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1042 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Riyadh, 9 Mar (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, received Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, acting foreign minister of the provisional government of the Afghan mujahidin, and his accompanying delegation in his office this morning.

The two sides examined the latest developments on the Afghan scene as well as other topics of mutual interest. His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal also reaffirmed the Kingdom's support and aid for the struggle of the Afghan mujahidin. The meeting was attended by Ahmad Muhammad Mu'minah, head of the Foreign Ministry's Islamic Affairs department.

Mujahidin Government Recognized

LD0903110489 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1045 GMT 9 Mar 89

(Text] Riyadh, 9 Mar, (SPA)—The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has decided to officially recognize the Afghan government chosen by the Afghan mujahidin. This came in a Foreign Ministry statement today, Thursday. Following is the text:

Within the context of recent developments in the Afghan situation and the creation of the shura, representing all the different segments of Afghan people, which has chosen the Afghan government whose formation was announced recently, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has decided to officially recognize the government which the mujahidin have freely constituted.

King Fahd Meets With YAR Foreign Minister

LD0403220989 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1742 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 3 Mar (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, received Dr 'Abd al-Karim 'Ali al-'Iryani, YAR deputy prime minister

and foreign miniser, in his office tonight. He delivered to his majesty a verbal message from Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR. The meeting took place in the presence of Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal and Ghalib 'Ali Jamil, YAR ambassador to the Kingdom. The YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister arrived earlier today in Riyadh. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Receives Message From Bahraini Amir

JN0603201989 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Riyadh, 6 Mar (WAKH)—Saudi Arabian monarch King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, received a message today from his brother, Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah. The message was delivered by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah during his meeting today by King Fahd. The meeting was attended by Saudi Foreign Minister Amir Sa'ud ibn al-Faysal and Bahraini Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Shaykh 'Isa ibn Muhammad Al Khalifah.

Bahraini Heir Apparent Arrives in Riyadh

LD0803125089 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0950 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 8 Mar (SPA)—His Excellency Shaykh Hamad ibn Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, arrived in Riyadh this morning. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Hamad was accompanied by Minister of Development and Industry Yusuf ibn Ahmad al-Shirawi, and Shaykh Khalid ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah head of the heir apparent's court.

Yemen Arab Republic

Supreme Yemeni Council Issues Communique

JN0403135289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for affairs of Yemeni unity and Permanent Committee member, returned to Sanaa from Aden this afternoon after a visit to the southern part of the homeland. During his visit he delivered two letters from Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, to Brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee, and Haydar 'Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium in the southern part of the homeland. He also held contacts with brothers Salih Salim Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Central Committee, and Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, Central Committee member and prime minister.

The brother state minister chaired the northern part's side to the Supreme Yemeni Council Secretariat's first 1989 session, which concluded in Aden this morning. The following press communique was issued:

The Secretariat of the Supreme Yemeni Council held its first 1989 session [words indistinct] under Brothers Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for affairs of Yemeni unity, Permanent Committee member, and head of the northern part's delegation in the Secretariat, and Hashim Muhammad Thabit, Central Committee member, minister of state for union affairs, and head of the soutern part of the homeland in the Secretariat.

The Secretariat reviewed the state of unionist activity between the two sides in various spheres, including the implementation of the May 1988 agreement and evaluated the the progress made in executing its articles and the resolutions of the third session of the joint ministerial committee since it last convened. The sides formulated a blueprint to reinforce the activity of unionist bodies and broaden the scope of action in various unionist areas including the economic, cultural, social, and political fields in light of [words indistict].

Meanwhile, the Secretariat endorsed a comprehensive report on the next meeting of the ministerial committee and a timetable to complete the work of the joint unionist committees as well as [words indistinct] the work of all the technical committees and support for the joint companies and projects.

The Secretariat carried on its work in an atmosphere of concern to develop and expand unionist activities in accordance with the wishes of the two wise leaderships in the two parts of the homeland. The Secretariat voiced its complete satisfaction with the brotherly dialogue during this session's meetings.

Deputy Premier Carries Salih Letter to Riyadh

JN0403135489 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member, left Sanaa for Riyadh on a visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Dr al-Iryani said he is carrying a letter from brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, to his brother, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, on ties between the brotherly countries and Arab developments.

Returns With Fahd Message

JN0503134689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 March

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member, returned to Sanaa this morning following a

brief visit to Saudi Arabia. Duuring the visit, he conveyed a message from brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, to his brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, dealing with relations between the two fraternal countries and the latest developments in the Arab arena.

In a statement to SABA' news agency, Dr al-Iryani said he carries a reply message to the brother president leader from his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques.

Talks on UN Resolution 598 Begin in New York

JN0803204189 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Technical talks began at the United Nations today between an Iraqi delegation and Jan Eliasson, the UN secretary general's representative, to prepare for the direct talks between Iraq and Iran scheduled in New York later this month.

The technical talks will focus on ways to implement UN Security Council Resolution No. 598 calling for a comprehensive end to the Iraq-Iran war.

The UN secretary general's representative last week held a meeting with an Iranian delegation.

YAR Congress Delegation Pays 6-Day Visit

Meets With President

JN0403200989 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn has affirmed that, with God's help, through popular awareness in the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] countries, and by the determination and interaction of these countries' leaders, we will always make more progress through the ACC. We also have great hopes that every step we take will lead to a second and a third step. In this way, the structure is being built.

During his meeting with the head and members of the YAR General People's Congress' delegation this evening, he said that the victory was achieved through your will as Arabs over an enemy that harbored evil intentions against the Arab nation and its land and sanctities both in the present and the future. We turned political support, money, and the men who came to us from Yemen into huge armies.

The president leader added: Through 8 years of war, we have tried to persuade the enemy that there is no room for its dreams and ambitions in the Arabs' land, that it cannot harm the Arabs, and that it and the Arabs should live in their respective territories in peace.

Ramadan Meets With Al-Asbahi

JN0403183289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, received the YAR Standing Committee delegation led by Ahmad Muhammad al-Asbahi, secretary of the YAR Standing Committee, here this evening.

During the meeting, Ramadan stressed that the ACC was established as a natural result of the excellent relations among Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, and the YAR—relations that are based on mutual understanding.

Ramadan also said that the sons of the Arab nation are deeply confident that the ACC will form a basis for a more comprehensive Arab unity, especially since the ACC has not come as a temporary measure to face certain circumstances but as a result of 10 years of excellent relations among the leaders and sons of the four countries. He also hailed the Yemeni people's courageous position and their defense along with their brothers in Iraq of the eastern flank of the Arab homeland. He said that this position reflects the Arab nation's deep national awareness and readiness to defend itself and its goals.

For his part, Dr Ahmad Muhammad al-Asbahi praised Iraq's courage, which stimulated the energies and deepened the confidence of Arabs. He said that the victories of the Iraqis have restored the Arabs' glory and heroism.

Al-Asbahi added that the sons of the Arab nation view the ACC as the beginning of more comprehensive and unionist progress because the Arab nation has started to make real progress in cooperation among its countries based on the great victory achieved by the Iraqis under President Saddan Husayn after 8 years of legendary steadfastness.

The meeting was attended by Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and secretary general of the Progressive National and Patriotic Front; the director of the Foreign Relations Bureau at the Ba'th Party Regional Command, and the YAR ambassador in Baghdad.

Cooperation Protocol Signed

JN0403175289 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] A cooperation protocol between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the General People's Congress of the YAR was signed at the Regional Command building today. It was signed for the Ba'th Party by Comrade Hasan 'Ali, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and secretary of the Progressive National and Patriotic Front; and for the General People's Congress by Dr Ahmad Muhammad al-Asbahi, secretary of the Executive Committee of the General People's Congress.

The protocol, which is valid for 2 years stipulates the exchange of delegations and visits by the two sides in order to promote spheres of cooperation between them as well as talks on ideological, political, information, and organizational issues. The ceremony was attended by the director of the Foreign Relations Bureau at the Ba'th Party Regional Command and the members of the YAR General People's Congress.

Delegation Departs 5 Mar

JN0503115089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Mar (INA)—Dr Ahmad Muhammad al-Asbahi, secretary of the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress in the YAR, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad today after a 6-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Dr Ahmad Muhammad al-Asbahi expressed his deep satisfaction with the good results of his meetings with President Saddam Husayn and party and state officials during his visit—meetings which have embodied the strength of relations between the leadership and people of the two fraternal countries.

Dr al-Asbahi was seen off at the airport by 'Adnan Dawud Salman, deputy director of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command Foreign Relations Bureau, the director of the National Command Foreign Relations Bureau, and the YAR ambassador in Baghdad.

Shamir's Office: PLO Visa Decision Regretted

TA0903115189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] In Jerusalem, the Prime Minister's Office said the U.S. decision to grant visas to the PLO representatives was regrettable. On this and the forthcoming visit to Washington of Foreign Minister Arens, Jack Katzenell reports:

The prime minister's media adviser Avi Pazner said the American decision to admit the PLO representatives is regrettable, but he did not elaborate. The Foreign Ministry spokesman declined to make any reaction, noting that the PLO figures involved are very low level.

Pazner denied the reports that the United States has told Israel that it is expecting confidence-building measures in the territories and some substantial new proposals on the peace process when Prime Minister Shamir visits the United States in April or May, but according to another senior official source in Jerusalem, the United States is saying: It will not be enough for Shamir to bring an expanded version of the autonomy plan, although that in itself would be welcome by the United States. The United States also wants Israel to implement confidence-building measures in the territories, the source said: releasing large numbers of administrative detainees, easing the economic burden created by administrative measures of the Civil Administration, and thinning out the troops in the population centers.

The prime minister's spokesman said Israel is certainly prepared to consider such proposals if they are submitted to Moshe Arens during his present visit, but the spokesman argued: It was the intifadah [uprising] itself which created the economic hardship in the territories, not the measures of the Civil Administration. As for the idea of releasing large numbers of detainees, that should probably be addressed to the minister of defense, Avi Pazner said.

Minister Arens will spend nearly 10 days in the United States. He will meet not only Secretary of State Baker and President Bush, but also the Senate Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and the House Foreign Relations Committee. He will have talks with Henry Kissinger, with the UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and Jewish leaders, and will be interviewed on the three main television networks.

In his talks with the administration, Arens will focus on the way of getting the negotiating process started, with the aim of achieving an interim settlement without reference to the nature of a final settlement. Arens' approach will be to concentrate on procedure at this stage, rather than content. He will, of course, voice Israel's regret over the U.S. decision to continue the dialogue with the PLO and with the statement, attributed to Secretary Baker, that the PLO's attacks on Israel's northern border do not constitute terrorism.

Rabin on Baker Remarks

TA0803193489 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that only the future will tell to what extent the Fatah faction of the PLO is faithful to Yasir 'Arafat's commitment toward the United States, or whether that organization, too, will resume terrorist activities against Israel. The defense minister was speaking during a tour of the northern border.

Our correspondent Moti 'Eden asked for Mr Rabin's comment on the remarks of the U.S. secretary of state, who said that the attempted infiltrations by terrorists into Israeli territory are not to be defined as terrorist activities.

[Begin Rabin recording] If these are not terrorist operations, then I do not know what a terrorist operation is. Therefore, I would recommend most strongly that the United States adhere to the definition of terror that it had embraced for a long time. What conclusions for the future of its dialogue with the PLO the United States will draw from the fact that terrorist operations are being carried out against Israel from Lebanon, particularly in view of the fact that the present PLO representative is Hawatimah's deputy—that is, the meetings in Tunis held by Ambassador Peletreau are with a Hawatimah terrorist who says explicitly: We will continue terrorist activities [incomplete sentence as heard] [end recording]

Netanyahu Discusses Issue

TA0903083089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Mikha Friedman—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens is scheduled to leave tonight for the United States for a series of political talks with the heads of the administration there. According to Arens, these talks will focus on getting acquainted with the new administration leaders, President Bush and Secretary of State Baker, with an eye toward future steps. Washington is expecting more from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's upcoming visit in April. The United States expects Israel to propose new plans to solve the Middle East problems.

Good morning to Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu. Now that the new U.S. Administration has in fact backed off of the Shultz initiative, which was based on solving the Middle East conflict through an international conference, the only remaining major point of dispute between the two countries is the political dialogue the Americans and the PLO are conducting with the aim of paving the road for the organization's participation in

the peace process. Since, as both you and Arens believe, the PLO is not a legitimate partner for anything, will our foreign minister tell Bush and Baker: Stop talking to the PLO?

[Netanyahu] Look, we said that we see no room for such a dialogue to begin with. It was the United States that set down the conditions for a dialogue, these being that the PLO stop its terrorist activities and recognize the State of Israel. It has not stopped terror, which is clear to all. In internal statements made in Arab countries and other forums, the PLO is making it clear that it has not recognized Israel either. The PLO is saying that it has developed a new tactic to eliminate the Zionist entity.

I must make one thing clear: The Americans never asked us to enter a dialogue with the PLO; this is simply not true. On the other hand, we want to present constructive proposals to get the political dialogue started and, to the extent possible, to conduct it according to principles on which we and the United States agree. As is obvious, there is no shortage of such principles.

[Friedman] You mentioned the issue of terror. How, in your opinion, will Arens confront the U.S. argument that the terrorists' raids on our northern border did not cross the line defining terror, as Baker expressed it, and that there is no evidence that 'Arafat approved them, as was stated by Bush?

[Netanyahu] I think that there is some sort of misunderstanding here: I heard Charles Redman, the official spokesman of the U.S. State Department, say otherwise in a different spirit. You refer to an anonymous quote that has been attributed to Baker.

[Friedman] Yes, that is correct; it is a quote by an official in Baker's entourage.

[Netanyahu] Correct. There is, therefore, a clear contradiction between these two statements. We, however, do not react to unattributed statements made through the press, but rather to authorized messages. Furthermore, I believe that the United States is somewhat distressed over the real contradictions between the PLO's declarations and actions. The PLO has indeed stated that it is refraining from engaging in terror, but as is clear to any resident on our northern border, the PLO infiltration attempts aim to carry what are definitely terrorist acts.

[Friedman] In your opinion, would it be exaggerating to say that the United States is being more flexible in terms of its principles and demands concerning the PLO in order to allow the dialogue to continue, because it is in the United States' interest at present to continue the dialogue with the PLO no matter what?

[Netanyahu] I do not want to resort to prophecy. It is hard to what will happen if the PLO will continue to tug at the leash. I do not believe that anything is cast-iron. The main question is the extent of our adherence to our principles, which we have expressed in a series of intensive meetings with the United States, Britain, the USSR, France, Egypt, the PRC, Holland, Denmark, and many others.

In other words, we have a record of having held intensive contacts over the past 2 months in which we firmly stood by our principles: direct negotiations and not an international conference; dialogue with the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip and not with the PLO; adherence to an interim arrangement and not jumping to a permanent one. Keeping in mind Baker's official public statements made 2 days ago, I believe that there is a real chance for a large degree of understanding and perhaps even agreement between us and the United States. I also believe this results from the fact that we stood by our principles. That is why I believe that there are grounds for progress and productive conversations between Foreign Minister Arens and the heads of the U.S. Administration.

[Friedman] You were scheduled to accompany the foreign minister. You are not going. Why?

[Netanyahu] I was supposed to go a week earlier and hold private meetings in Congress. Arens' visit was moved up a week, so there was no time for my plans. I will go some other time, I promise you.

[Friedman] I am asking this because you must have read last week's report in 'AL HAMISHMAR that said that there is a rift between you and Minister Arens.

[Netanyahu] I know of no such rift, nor does the foreign minister.

[Friedman] Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu, thank you.

[Netanyahu] Thank you.

UN Protests Border Closing as 'Unacceptable'

TA0903055889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] The United Nations has protested to Israel over what it termed the unacceptable action of closing the Israeli border to UNIFIL for more than 18 hours. The UN spokesman said the border closing was said to be in retaliation for an incident on Tuesday in which Norwegian troops blocked the entry of Israeli vehicles to a village in Lebanon. The United Nations said this incident was the latest in a series that began in mid-1988 as the result of increased activity in the Norwegian battalion area by the Israeli army and south Lebanese forces.

Rabin Denies Plans To Expand Security Zone

TA0803183589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Defense Minister Rabin says he expects terrorist activity in south Lebanon to increase, but the defense minister said he felt that the renewed attempts would be halted inside the security zone as in the past. Rabin was speaking to reporters today during a tour of south Lebanon. Regarding yesterday's incident with Norwegian soldiers serving with UNIFIL, Rabin said it was caused by a misunderstanding. The defense minister stressed that UNIFIL must learn that it cannot interfere with Israel's military activity. He also denied reports that Israel was planning to expand the security zone in south Lebanon.

Islamic Leader Views Rushdie Death Threats

TA0803124689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] The leader of the Islamic Movement in Israel, Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, has expressed reservations about the Ayatollah Khomeyni's death warnings to British author Salman Rushdie over publication of his book "The Satanic Verses." Voice of Israel reporter Yo'el Dar says the shaykh believes the best thing to do is to ignore the book and the writer altogether.

Academics Present Plan for Settling Conflict

TA0803174189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Members of Tel Aviv University's Center for Strategic Studies believe that control over all the inhabitants of the territories for many years will be an obstacle, not a strategic asset. They believe there is no chance of settling the conflict in the region without direct negotiations with the PLO or its authorized representatives. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe said members of the center—Reserves General Aharon Yariv and Yosef Alper—presented their conclusions to the defense minister.

The report said that both sides have to change basic conceptions. The Palestinians have to get used to Israel's permanent existence, give up the right of return, and agree to an extended transitional stage of 10 to 15 years during which a Palestinian state would not be established and during which issues and bilateral relations would be studied in the field. The Palestinians must stop terrorism and the uprising. Israel will have to return the territories to the Palestinians, agree to extensive autonomy, and stop the settlement drive.

Shamir, Peres Differ on Plan

TA0803194889 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir rejects the conclusions offered by the Strategic Studies Center's report. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports that Mr Shamir objects vehemently to the statement that talks with the PLO and the establishment of a Palestinian state are inevitable.

Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres termed the report an intelligent analysis, saying that Israel must talk to Palestinians as they are. The right solution has always been and still is either a Jordanian-Palestinian or a Jordanian-Israeli-Palestinian confederation.

Rabin: Planning of Settlements 'Very Poor'

TA0903084389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin believes that the planning of the settlements in Judaea and Samaria is very poor. A different plan, such as the one for the Qatif bloc, would have spared the residents a large degree of harassment and wasted energy.

In a conversation with Nati Zilberman, our correspondent in the western Galilee, Minister Rabin said that the main concept in planning the Qatif bloc settlements was maintaining compact settlements in which every location would be directly connected with another and in which there would be no need to pass through Arab settlements. According to him, settlements in certain areas, such as the Jordan Rift Valley, add to the security of Judaea and Samaria. In other areas, however, new settlements have no defensive value.

Minister Rabin added that new settlements will only be set up in accordance with the coalition agreement and on condition that they are not fictitious.

Border Police Responsibility for Gaza Extended

TA0803194089 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Border Police's responsibility for routine security in the Gaza Strip will be extended in the near future, in accordance with the new plan for Israel Defense Forces deployment in the Gaza Strip. This was learned by our correspondent Victor Nahmias. According to the plan, the Border Police will be in charge of Gaza city and of the three refugee camps in the central Gaza Strip.

More on Border Police Duties

TA0903130089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Report from Gaza by 'Ezra Yanuv]

[Text] As of today, Border Police units are replacing Israeli Defense Forces [IDF] soldiers at several military posts in the Gaza Strip, including the Jabalyah refugee camp and Gaza City. In response to my question, the IDF spokesman said that, in the framework of IDF redeployment in the Gaza Strip, Border Police companies will assume responsibility for several locations in

lieu of the IDF units. The military units will be responsible for other tasks in the region. Other elements explain that the transfer of duties from the soldiers to these policemen is meant to ease the tension in the region and to reduce the scope of local casualties, thus bringing about as much quiet as possible.

The general strike in the Gaza Strip is continuing today and will continue tomorrow as well. This strike marks the beginning of the 16th month since the start of the uprising in the territories.

The curfew imposed a few days ago on the Jabalyah refugee camp and the Shabura neighborhood in Rafah was extended today to the Al-Shati' refugee camp as well, due to army operational reasons. Since the morning, the security forces have been conducting patrols to clear intersections in towns in the region of stone roadblocks and burning tires put in place by young demonstrators.

New Reservist Group Opposes 'Occupation'

TA0903113789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Mar 89 p 2

[Report by Ya'aqov Friedler]

[Text] Haifa—A group of reservists who want the IDF "to be a defence army again, and not to police and oppress civilians in the territories" has been founded under the name "Call-Up Order."

The nation-wide organization intends to stage a voluntary "call-up" of reserves this month to pressure the government "to switch from confronting the Palestinians in the streets to meeting them around the negotiating table," Segen [Lieutenant] (res.) No'am Moses of the Haifa chapter told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday. There are also chapters in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

He stressed that the organization was non-partisan, and did not advocate refusal to serve in the territories. The highest-ranking member, so far, is Sgan-Aluf [Lieutenant Colonel] (res.) Hagay Peleg of Kibbutz Hazor.

A leaflet to be published soon by the group says that "the security of Israel cannot permanently rest on occupation and oppression. We object to being deployed to beat up civilians and don't want to be the fig-leaf to cover the government's postponement of a political solution."

The group has begun distributing printed "call-up orders" and asking reservists to register and mobilize friends for the "call-up" demonstration.

'Free State of Judaea' Demands UN Observer Status

TA0903131989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Excerpt] The Free State of Judaea is demanding that the UN secretary general grant it observer status in the United Nations, a status similar to that of the PLO. Meir Kahane, who was appointed by the first congress of the Free State of Judaea as the person responsible for its foreign affairs and relations, sent a letter to the UN secretary general demanding that the congress be granted observer status. If the UN secretary general rejects his demand, the founders of this state will appeal to the International Court in The Hague. [passage omitted]

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

2 Rafah Houses Demolished

TA0903055389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] The security forces last night demolished two houses belonging to residents of the Al-Junaynah neighborhood in Rafah. The two were active within the framework of the Unified National Command of the Uprising in their areas of residence.

Our correspondent Hasan Abu Ziyad reports that the two threw firebombs at Israel Defense Forces [IDF] patrols on three occasions and threw stones at an Israeli bus. On one occasion the two placed an old shell in a burning tire to make it explode when an IDF patrol passed by. They were caught by an IDF patrol while getting ready to throw firebombs at an army vehicle.

2 Wounded by Plastic Bullets

TA0903134889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Two young men aged 20 and 22 from Gaza's Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood were wounded at noon today by plastic bullets fired by Israel army troops who were dispersing a violent demonstration in their neighborhood. The two were taken to Al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza. One of them, who is in serious condition, was transferred to Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer.

UK's Waldegrave Makes Predeparture Statement

JN0903063889 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Interview with William Waldegrave, British minister of state at the Foreign Office, by reporter Samar Dahmash in Amman on 8 March—recorded]

[Text] [Dahmash] You said today in the press conference that you don't expect the peace conference to be convened this year. Why is that?

[Waldegrave] I think we have to be realistic about the speed with which things will move. And it is bound to take some time for a new American government to formulate policy. And then there's going to be a great deal of detailed discussion with the participants—with Israel, with Syria, with Jordan, with the Palestinians, with Egypt—before anybody actually sits down to a conference.

I think it important that people shouldn't get unmeetable expectations because then they will be disappointed with them. And if things are moving towards a conference during the latter part of this year I think that will be quite as much as we can expect and that will be pretty satisfactory.

[Dahmash] When you visited Israel, you caused a very big row, especially with Shamir and for simply stating one simple inhumane fact among many that already exist in Israel. So how do you expect that the peace process will go on with such a mentality governing Israel, putting in mind that Israel might have a number of Shamirs?

[Waldegrave] Well, there is a wide range of different kinds of people in Israel as I learned when I was there. Many people talk a great deal of sense about the peace process. And recent opinion polls there have been very encouraging. And they have been saying that the government ought to talk with the PLO and so forth. Now, it is a matter of convincing those who do not share this view—that Israel's security would not be threatened by having a structure of peace treaties with her neighbors. It is ironic that anyone should think that such a structure of peace, if you like, would threaten security. It should surely build it. So it is a matter of working away.

I am optimistic because the present situation cannot last.

[Dahmash] The Arabs are always blamed for not being cooperative and moderate. And now after the PNC [Palestine National Council] decision, I think the situation has changed. Jordan, Egypt, and so many countries—Arab countries—have expressed their readiness to go through peace negotiation. It seems that Israel is the only hardship that is blocking the peace process.

[Waldegrave] Well, you're right. It is ironic, isn't it, that the three no's of Khartoum in 1967 when the Arabs said they wouldn't talk, wouldn't work on the basis of the United Nations Security Council 242, and so on, it is now Israel who seems to be saying the no's? But that seems to me in itself to be the source of optimism because Israel has been in the position of accepting these propositions in the past. So it is not as if we are trying to persuade her to accept propositions which she has never thought to be reasonable at one time. It is a matter of bringing both sides together at the same time. And since everybody is interested in peace I am sure that before too long, though I cannot exactly predict the timing, there will be progress.

[Dahmash] Before you went to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, what sort of idea did you have about the situation in the occupied territories?

[Waldegrave] Well, of course I knew a good deal about it from reading and from the reports of our diplomats and from those Members of Parliament who you mentioned who do come and talk to me when they come back from here, from the occupied territories. And nonetheless, when you actually see it for yourself it is a very striking thing.

[Dahmash] What is the most striking thing?

[Waldegrave] Well, I think the most striking image I have is of Nabulus under curfew—the whole city with nobody moving, dead, extraordinary. And it happened to be, I happened to be there on the same day that Mr Shamir described it as being liberated. And it really was rather laughable.

[Dahmash] And in Gaza?

[Waldegrave] In Gaza, well, the thing that strikes one most in Gaza, which of course has a huge density of population, is that there are many people living in very poor conditions. But, they have maintained a very great dignity and pride. And I very much admire the work that UNRWA has done there. We announced some additional money to help them with that work. But I did not see that the spirit of the people was broken at all. On the contrary, there is a very great pride and solidarity and amongst those Palestinian people, which is bound to be rewarded by success in the end.

Departs 8 Mar

JN0803132589 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Amman— William Waldegrave, British minister of state in charge of Middle Eastern Affairs at the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, left Amman today after an official 2-day visit to Jordan, during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and senior officials.

Further on Threat Against UK Guards of Rushdie
NC0803152589 Paris AFP in English 1504 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Beirut, March 8 (AFP)—A clandestine group holding foreign hostages in Lebanon announced Wednesday it was prepared to kill British author Salman Rushdie and was determined to attack British police protecting him.

The Organization of Revolutionary Justice (ORJ), in an Arabic-language statement sent to a Western news agency here, said it had "completed preparations to execute the just sentence of Ayatollah Khomeyni." [passage omitted]

"Before taking action," the ORJ said, "it is important to make clear that we will be obliged to attack British police positions guarding Rushdie in order to get to him.

"We hold the British government responsible in advance for any human losses in the ranks of the police that our attacks could cause."

The statement added that its decision to stage an assault on Mr Rushdie and his protectors came after the group had "attentively read 'The Satanic Verses' and studied the case of Salman Rushdie." [passage omitted]

Junblatt Addresses Rally in Damascus 8 Mar
JN0803180989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1029 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Speech by Walid Junblatt, Progressive Socialist Party leader, at a rally marking the 26th anniversary of the 8 March 1963 revolution and the opening of the fifth congress of the Syrian Women's General Federation at the Umayyad Palace of Conferences in Damascus on 8 March—live]

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, comrades. Many questions are being asked today on this great pan-Arab occasion. During this delicate historical phase the Arab world faces two choices: Arab peace [salam] or the Israeli-Western peace [silm]. The Arab peace is the peace of the free Arabs all over Palestine, a peace with strength, not the peace of the weak. It is peace based on supporting and expanding the Palestinian intifadah [uprising]. It is based on backing Arab resistance in Lebanon, both in the south and in the north.

The Arab peace is achieved by increasing the resources of the Syrian Arab Army to acquire nuclear weapons within the context and logic of the strategic balance. The Arab peace can be realized by backing Syria's national economy in all fields and organizing it along correct scientific socialist lines, and by the return to a unified customs law between Lebanon and Syria—at least between the liberated Arab areas in Lebanon and Syria—in order to eradicate the cancer of smuggling, which threatens national security.

The Arab peace lies in expanding the steadfastness front to include all sincere Arab national forces and rejecting the idea of settlement just for the sake of a settlement. Only this way can we continue the confrontation and enter the international conference, if we have to, demanding Arab rights all over Palestine, and rejecting division and capitulation.

As for the Israeli-Western version of peace, it supports the Tel Aviv line. This line seeks to argue over the intifadah in order to abort it; to hide behind the slogan of independent decisionmaking; to circumvent the Palestine National Charter and establish a government in exile; to accept an imaginary state alongside the real state, Israel, and the colonialist, western extension it represents in the Arab land, which is a new crusader state in every sense of the world.

The Israeli-Western peace is based on oppressing the Arab and Kurdish people in Iraq, and by alliance with Lebanese isolationists and their weapons, money, and boobytrapped cars. All of this comes after an imaginary Qadisiyah [referring to the Iraq-Iran war] from which the colonialist West was the prime beneficiary. The Israeli-Western peace is established by chaining Arab decisionmaking in Egypt to Camp David, by chaining the Egyptian people through debts, and making Egypt a hostage like the Latin American states—a hostage to the IMF and to the new greedy bourgeois classes, which have unprecedented power, even since King Faruq's days.

The Israeli-Western peace lies in thinking that the new economic and political groupings constitute enough guarantees by themselves. No matter how strong or entrenched they become, these groupings will not be effective if they ignore the direct Western colonialist reality in Palestine and bypass the need to strengthen the front of steadfastness and confrontation of Israel and the need of gradual independence from the greedy West which plunders our wealth and keeps us a growing market for its goods.

In this context, we warn the Arab Maghreb that it should not go too far toward the West because guaranteeing its Arabism and Islam comes through the continuing struggle against all the isolationist trends and Zionism and through adhering to Arabism. [applause]

The Arab peace in Lebanon lies in the complete and comprehensive cancelation of political sectarianism and the system of privileges and in the formation of a Lebanese Arab army that has a clear, firmly entrenched, and final political, military, security, and economic relationship with Syria that paves the way for unity, that preserves Lebanon's unity, that removes the results of Sykes-Picot, and that enhances Lebanon's pan-Arabism after it has turned into a base for colonialism and Israel and a springboard for all forms of isolation.

As for the Israeli-Western peace in Lebanon, it is a political curve that has never stopped since the Ottoman Empire began retreating before its final fall. It has never stopped since the estabishment of the foreign missionaries and the cultural venom they carried with them. This venom resulted in the so-called age of awakening in the 19th century but this in reality was a prelude to the Sykes-Picot Agreement, the mandate systems, and the establishment of the Hebrew state.

The Israeli-Western peace in Lebanon lies in a grudge-bearing policy of an old and outdated church that deviated from the teachings of Christ and conceded its will to colonialism and Zionism under the slogan that Lebanon is the refuge homeland. Thus it threatened all the Christians of the east and their genuine Arabism. Now Bkirki is colluding with the West to transmit satanic verses hostile to Arabism and is holding fast to the main instrument of repression, the Army, in order to protect its privileges, transforming Lebanon into a new colonialist base in a sensitive spot of the Arab body.

However, we tell the West and Israel and their agents in Lebanon that we will not return to the age of the governorate status; that we will not accept a new Gouraud and a new [name indistinct]; that we reject the logic of multiple cultural entities [al-ta'addudiyah al-hadariyah]; that the Arab people in Lebanon repulsed Israel and the multinational forces and will repulse the new allies, and the new Baghdad Pact. The Lebanese people will always reject and fight the logic of isolation regardless of the sacrifices and irrespective of the treacherous methods. [applause]

These are our ambitions. This is our future. This is our fate in an honorable, decent Arab peace. We will live together in the great pan-Arab trench, fight together, and face martyrdom together, along with the great Syrian Arab people, the Ba'th Party [applause], the party of workers and peasants, and the heroes of October who watered with their chaste blood every inch of the land of the Golan and Lebanon in defense of the nation's dignity and Arab rights.

Mr President, we were at your side and will stay at your side through thick and thin. May you live long, may the Ba'th revolution live long.

Nabih Birri Addresses Rally

JN0803203589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1040 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Speech by Nabih Birri, Amal movement leader, at a rally marking the 26th anniversary of the 8 March 1963 revolution and the opening of the fifth congress of the Syrian Women General Federation at the Umayyad Palace of Conferences in Damascus on 8 March—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Mr President, Lebanon has been in confusion for 14 years. Despite the international, regional, and local factors, as well as the Arab moves, we are still in confusion. This is because the causes of sedition have not ceased. Indeed none of these causes has ended. These causes can be summarized in three ills: the Lebanese regime, the Israeli intervention, and the betrayal of Lebanon's Arabism and reality.

The Lebanese regime is a complex, sectarian regime. It has been able to transform the political sectarianism into the religious context of sectarianism. It created a number of beneficiaries from Maronite politics in all sects in order to ensure its continuity and existence. We will not be exaggerating when we say that this regime is the source of ills and is at the forefront of the causes of sedition in Lebanon. This is because this regime made a feast for Israel and invited it to ensure its existence. The pioneers of the regime did not accept greater Lebanon had it not been for economic reasons because the four regions in the north, in 'Akkar, Al-Biqa', and the south, constituted a consumer society for them.

Any solution in Lebanon that retains this regime is only a mirage. We say that all that the Maronite politics is aiming at is an immediate wresting of the presidency and the people can then demand reforms. This is despite the fact that for 2 years, we have been affirming the need for reconciliation and reforms before the elections are held.

They are using deception to maintain the regime of hypocrisy established in 1943. In 1943, no reconciliation was realized between the Muslims and Christians in Lebanon but a reconciliation against the Muslims and Christians. In 1943, there was no reconciliation between the East and the West but there was plotting by the West against the East in Lebanon. There was no agreement between the mandate system and Arabism but a plot against Arabism. Lebanon acquired an Arab face—that is in appearance—but has a colonialist substance. In 1943, there was no independence but exploitation.

Therefore, from the position of responsibility we affirm that a solution must begin with a new regime for this country, giving human rights through a new Arab republic. Its constitution must be concecrated before any presidential election is held.

We tell the Arab committee that the international detente is useless in reaching a solution at the expense of the nationalists in Lebanon. Changing the regime and carrying out reforms cannot result from a promise made by the president of the republic no matter who is. Amin al-Jumayyi's promises are well known. Any candidate for the presidency, even if he is well-meaning, will keep us in this dilemma because the crisis is that of a regime and not a person.

This is one thing. As for the form, we tell the brothers in the Arab committee in Kuwait: This is not the way things are done. Where did they bring these people from? Where did they bring these mummies from, who have been the cause of Lebanon's corruption, so they would consult them on a Lebanese solution? [passage omitted]

In short, a Lebanese solution can be realized by solving its three ills, and therefore, a solution is realized by establishing a new regime approved by the Chamber of Deputies, affirming Lebanon's Arabism and its special and integrated relations with Syria, canceling the system of sectarian politics and the differences between citizens, and adhering to resistance as a means of liberation with the aim of implementing the pertinent international resolutions.

I must assure you that the problem is not that of persons. It does not lie in the name of the president. Dozens of persons fit the presidency but there is not a single good system for the presidency. [passage omitted]

Salim al-Huss Departs for Damascus 9 Mar

NC0903064589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Dr Salim al-Huss left for Damascus this morning in response to an urgent request from Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

PSP Leader on Beirut Situation, Al-Jiyah Ports

NC0803124389 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] [The Lebanese] Army has intensified the situation on the mountain combat lines. Since this morning, these axes have been the scene of intermittent machinegun fire from the Army positions in Al-Khazzanat directed at the 888 hill.

Meanwhile, in a contact with our radio today, PSP Political Bureau member Sulayman Taqiy al-Din denied reports by certain media on PSP's intention to bombard the port of Beirut in the event any ship bound for the port of Al-Jiyah is intercepted. However, he asserted that if ships heading to the Al-Jiyah port are intercepted, then matters will be dealt with at the appropriate time. He noted that the PSP leader was clear when he said: We are not in favor of escalation but we are ready to defend our areas.

Taqiy al-Din said that the situation in the port of Al-Jiyah is normal and that interception of any vessel entering the port will not be allowed.

'Awn on Junblatt Threat of Port Shelling

NC0803134889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn inspected the naval and air operations room this morning. During the visit, Brigadier General Alberto Ghurayyib briefed him on its work and tasks. Gen 'Awn described the measures implemented thus far as superb. He added:

[Begin recording] ['Awn] Work is proceeding well and instructions are being implemented. This is a continuous effort. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Walid Junblatt has threatened to shell Beirut port if the state prevents a ship sailing to Al-Jiyah port this afternoon from entering it. What is your comment?

['Awn] If he acts in the way he threatens, we will make the proper decision at the proper time.

[Correspondent] Will force be used if a ship ignores the instructions, as one officer has said?

['Awn] Follow this up and you will see. Our decision was not made to challenge any party, but to apply the laws to save a people who are being starved and to save a homeland they are breaking up. If some people want to continue to act as a gang, they are free to do so. But our task is to combat this. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Gunboats Divert Tanker to Beirut Port

NC0803130189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Lebanese gunboats today encircled an oil tanker that was heading to Al-Jiyah port and diverted its course to Beirut port.

Army Posts on Mountain Under PSP Fire

NC0903173389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] The security situation on the mountain combat lines has deteriorated. Since 1820 today, Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb and Dahr al-Wahsh have been under rocket and antiaircaft fire from the opposing Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] positions. A numer of shells fell in the Kahhalah area.

VOL Reports Ba'th Party Claim of Attack on SLA

NC0803204989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] The Lebanese branch of the Ba'th Party has claimed responsibility for an attack on a South Lebanese Army [SLA] position in the northern part of the security strip today. A Ba'th Party statement distributed in Sidon said that a number of SLA personnel were killed or wounded.

For its part, the Amal Movement has claimed responsibility for a similar attack in Al-Nabatiyah. It said that one SLA member was killed and seven were injured.

The SLA radio reported the two attacks but did not mention any casualties. It is noted that the Ba'th Party has rarely attacked the SLA and the Israeli forces in the past 2 years. Security sources have confirmed that the

SLA retaliated for the two attacks by firing 40 tank and mortar shells on the villages in the Al-Nabatiyah area where the extremists are positioned.

Amal Sends Syria-Supplied Reinforcements to South

NC0803210689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Amal sources have disclosed that the movement recently sent T-54 and T-55 type tanks, which Syria had supplied, to the south to reinforce its positions east of Sidon and in Iqlim al-Tuffah. It is estimated that about 32 tanks were sent.

The same sources added that former minister, Nabih Birri, expects the resumption of battles with pro-'Arafat Palestinians in eastern Sidon and with Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Therefore, he is trying to strengthen Amal's combat capacity. These sources said that an agreement has been concluded between Amal and the Al-Khatib army units in the South under Syria's auspices. According to this agreement, these units will support the Amal movement to eliminate any pro-'Arafat Palestinian presence east of Sidon.

Syrian Targets Focus of Bombings in West Beirut

NC0803205189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] The Shaykh Subhi al-Salih forces have announced that they detonated four explosive devices in West Beirut tonight. The first was targeted against a Syrian occupation forces position in Al-Musaytibah, the second against a similar position in Al-Mullah, the third against a Syrian patrol near Paradise Hotel on Al-Hamra Street, and the fourth was against a center of the Arab Democratic Party in Al-Asad Street.

Israelis Reopen Roads in South for UN Vehicles

NC0803172589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] A United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] source has declared that the crossings which the occupation forces had closed to UNIFIL vehicles yesterday were reopened this afternoon. Tension reigned between the enemy's forces and the UNIFIL forces throughout last night and this morning. [In a similar report datelined Tyre, Lebanon, Paris AFP in English at 1653 GMT adds the following: "The Israeli army Wednesday lifted a 24-hour ban on patrols by United Nations soldiers in parts of southern Lebanon, a U.N. source said. Peacekeepers from UNIFIL would again be permitted to patrol the Israeli-imposed "security zone" in southern Lebanon, the UNIFIL source added."]

Lahd Post Attacked; Israeli Overflights Reported

NC0903120789 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1150 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] A Katyusha rocket fell in a Lahd militia post in Jabal Safi this morning. Meanwhile, the occupation forces arrested two security force members from the town of Al-Habbariyah on Tuesday night and moved them to Al-Khiyam Prison.

In another development, Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon and the camps this morning. Today, the Lebanese Foreign Ministry cabled Lebanon's ambassador to the United Nations, asking him to convey Lebanon's protest over the occupation forces' practices, the latest of which were the Al-Habbariyah arrests.

Al-Asad Speech on March Revolution Anniversary

JN0803141689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1116 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Speech by President Hafiz al-Asad to mark the 26th anniversary of the 8 March 1963 revolution and the opening of the fifth congress of the Women's General Federation, at the Umayyad Palace of Conferences in Damascus on 8 March—live]

[Text] Comrade members of the congress, ladies and gentlemen: With great pleasure I salute your congress and welcome the delegations invited here. I wish them a happy stay in our country and a successful congress.

I am pleased that the fifth congress of the Women's General Federation is the first meeting to be held at the Umayyad Palace—this edifice which we built and inaugurated on the anniversary of the glorious 8 March revolution as an institution for conferences and cultural activities taking place in our country. It pleases me also that the opening of this congress coincides with the 26th anniversary of the March revolution. This coincidence symbolizes the firm link between the revolution and the great womens' awakening that has accompanied the 8 March revolution.

It also symbolizes the progress that the Syrian Arab woman has made under the revolution toward freedom and away from the vestiges of the past; toward a full role in society and the rights which she has been deprived of by complex and dark historical circumstances over many centuries in our country. It also symbolizes woman's progress in occupying her natural place in all walks of life.

The great progress made by Syrian woman is the fruit of her own struggle and the result of the support from the leadership of the party and government under the 8 March revolution. [applause] This support arises from the revolution's belief and conviction that woman is one of the two pillars of life and society. Life cannot exist, progress, or be fair without the two together. Society also cannot exist, progress, or be fair without the two together. Woman is the other essential part of society.

She should work to develop and enrich society spiritually and materially and claim her fair share from its growth and development. To achieve that, it was essential to create conditions enabling woman to give and to take. The revolution has done this: it has followed up and promoted them by tremendous efforts, whose fruits women now enjoy in all parts of our country.

The cause of women and women's rights was given due attention by party doctrine. This attention was reflected clearly in the Constitution of the Syrian Arab Republic. On the basis of reason and logic, and taking into consideration the human, moral, and national dimensions, an inevitable link exists between the rights of man and those of woman. To the man, the woman is mother, wife, sister, and daughter; and to the woman, the man is father, husband, brother, and son—hence the disappearance of any meaning to the saying that we are being fair to the man, but not to the woman; or that we are being fair to the woman, but not to the man. Unfairness to the one is unfairness to the other. There can be no justice unless man and woman are treated as equals. [applause]

Since woman and man constitute the two pillars of life and society, and since injustice to the one is also injustice to the other, injustice to either is bound to affect the whole of society. If we consider society's material and spiritual needs and the fact that injustice is the deprivation of rights—leading in turn to harming production and productivity in all material and spiritual fields—we will realize how much harm and suffering is caused to the people when women are deprived of their rights or when all or some of her resources are taken away from life's cycles of activity and enriching processes. Their absence is contrary to the essence of life and its principles and to the development of man's humanity in his dialectical relationship with life.

In view of our awareness of the natural facts, the universal rights, and the conditions of historical development, it must be said that man has continued to shoulder the heavy responsibility for working to place things in their natural context in life. We must stress the importance of the continuation of the women's struggle and of intensifying efforts to help bring about this normalization process. This should emanate first of all from her sense of responsibility. In addition, these efforts must also hasten the efforts to rectify the situation.

Our measures under the revolution are based on this perspective and our future work will continue to be based on it, fully aware that the road ahead is not free of thorns despite the fact that it has been levelled and paved for long distances. However, regardless of the remaining thorns and irrespective new thorns which have sprung up, these thorns will not survive the will to live, to uphold justice, and to bring about development—the will of man with which he can surmount these difficulties.

Based on this principle, legislation has been enacted and resolutions adopted—legislation and resolutions that have enabled the woman to occupy her present position in society, which benefits both women and the homeland.

The Women's General Federation is playing an important role in leading the woman's struggle. This popular women's organization, along with other popular organizations, is contributing to reaching the revolution's objectives and also to organizing and advancing society. The development and success that have been achieved by the Women's General Federation since its inception in organizing the women's sector deserve appreciation.

This organization will continue to enjoy the care and support of the party's leadership so that it can continue to and perform its tasks successfully and in the best possible manner. [applause]

The Syrian Arab woman is currently contributing to the eradication of illiteracy after she herself was the victim of illiteracy, as were many men. I In addition, the Syrian woman contributes to supporting herself and family after being dependent on man within the family. Moreover, the woman now contributes in all fields of activity. Women now have conspicuous leadership positions in the parties, the popular organizations, in the People's Assembly, in the Council of Ministers, and in the local administration councils at various levels.

Furthermore, women have started boldly in the military field and have begun to practice in professional jobs such as medicine, pharmacy, and the law; not to mention administrative and diplomatic careers. They have occupied judicial jobs and are prominent at all levels of education. [Applause]

The progress made by the Syrian Arab woman who has made her own way in life and exercised her natural rights has enabled her to perform her duty better as a mother and a wife. This progress has whetted her resolve and improved her national and pan-Arab standing through her participation in the national and pan-Arab struggle including the armed struggle. We have begun to see young females rushing to the battlefield demonstrating faith and determination crushing all obstacles and reaching the loftiest heights of sacrifice through martyrdom.

The brightest manifestation of the heroism of the Arab woman has been demonstrated in the struggle against aggression and occupation in the Golan, in southern Lebanon, and in occupied Palestine. [applause and chanting]

Thus, the names of female martyrs have illuminated the skies of the Arab homeland as bright stars due to their selflessness, generosity, patriotism, and heroism in the jihad. Their names will remain the epitome of faith in the homeland and shimmering torches illuminating the road for us and future generations.

The path taken by the hero martyr Hamidah al-Tahir and her friends, [applause] is eternally lit by the Pleiades constellation of glory, innocence, and honor. We glorify martyrs and martyrdom, women and men alike; we preserve the example they set; we are guided by them because their path is the path of honor, dignity, and victory [applause].

Let us continue on this path toward our noble goals: the goals of liberating occupied lands and retrieving usurped rights to build the society we want with security and peace of mind—a society of ample production, prosperity, and justice for all; a society of freedom and of high ideals. A society that has no ideals to defend is meaningless. [applause]

Our national and pan-Arab duties call for rallying all our resources and strengths. Therefore, we must open up the opportunity for women to participate in these duties. Syria is fighting a multi-sided battle: a national and pan-Arab battle; a battle of development and growth; a battle of defense and liberation. We want our Arab homeland to regain its cultural position after we rid ourselves of the legacy of problems, worries, and difficulties left to us by the ages of colonialism. Those ages bequeathed the Arab nation with backwardness, disunity, and the Zionist threat, which it implanted in the land of Palestine, in the heart of the Arab nation. [applause]

Syria's destiny, based on its history, geographical position, and role, is to lead the march after independence down the long path of common struggle to liberate ourselves from the remnants of the past; build a strong and secure homeland; and confront the growing Zionist threat.

Since its establishment, the March revolution has applied itself to these national and pan-Arab duties according to the principles of the Socialist Arab Ba'th philosophy. It has countered the backwardness with progress, and partition with unity. It has supported all this with practical, uninterrupted, action in the field. It has confronted the Zionist threat of constant aggression with everything that such a confrontation requires. On the basis of all this, it founded the principles of growth and development and on these foundations, established a lofty monument of great achievements.

Throughout the past 26 years, we exerted huge efforts to perform these tasks. We took great strides toward our goals. We implemented numerous development projects. To a great extent, we established the foundations of a socialist society. We persisted with unity struggle. With great honor and courage, we fought the battles in defense of the homeland and the nation's rights against Israeli aggression. What we have achieved since the start of the revolution is a source of pride by any standards in terms of the abundance of technical and scientific cadres, economic growth, social progress, and the increase in production and services.

This is evident in all aspects of life: in educational—universities, colleges, and schools; in health care—hospitals, clinics; in the expansion of factories; in the exploitation of natural resources; in agriculture—both animal and agrarian branches; in road and railway construction; in providing remote areas with electricity and water; and in establishing the constitutional institutions and strengthening the popular committees. [applause]

Among the foremost of our people's achievements is the establishment of the National Progressive Front that includes the country's existing six parties. Hundreds of thousands of this nation's strugglers are affiliated with these parties. [applause]

The National Progressive Front is a notable achievement and a unique experiment in the history of our country and the Arab homeland. Third World countries will never know such an experiment. It is not like any popular or party experiment in the world. [applause]

These achievements, accompanied by the pan-Arab stands and the sacrifices we made for the Arab nation's causes, have reinforced Syria's positions on issues, have made its voice heard, and have given weight to its opinions in regional and international forums because they embody the principles, honesty, and rights of the nation. [applause]

It is natural to see difficulties ahead. I have spoken about some of these difficulties in the past. However, we have achieved much in removing these obstacles. Our conditions today are much better than when I spoke about our economic difficulties, which, we hope, will improve in the near future. [chanting and applause]

The basis of our economy is solid, our potential is good, and our resources are being continuously developed. This requires us to work hard, to raise the standard of our work, and to develop a sense of collective responsibility. We should realize that harm inflicted on the homeland affects us all. No man or woman, old or young will be immune. Similarly, every success achieved by the homeland will benefit everybody.

In any case, let us note that the government measures over the past 2 years were appropriate. These measures helped in improving the economic situation. Despite the fact that the difficulties have not been removed yet, the government, the party, and the National Progressive Front are holding discussions and searching for ways to improve the income of government employees as far as possible. [chanting and applause] They are doing this out of a common awareness of the need for it. A decision is expected soon. [applause]

As in the economic field, we have achievements in the political, organizational, and administrative fields to be proud of. However, we should always work to for more and better achievements. We must reinforce national unity inspired by our people's desires, hopes, and aspirations. With national unity, we will spread the spirit of cooperation among all citizens, provide the atmosphere of creativity and initiative, and lay down a solid basis for self-reliance to build a strong homeland capable of defending itself and winning freedom and prosperity for all its sons.

There is still much work ahead to build the homeland, increase and develop production, and reinforce our resolve and ability to eliminate the aggression and occupation. To achieve all this, we depend on our people's and nation's abilities, the support of our friends, and the sympathy of world opinion for our causes. But the basis of our position is our belief in these causes, our readiness to defend them, and our principles and ideals. [applause]

A reading of modern history demonstrates that the colonial powers were intent on creating one problem after another to exhaust us and our resources so that a new problem would engage our attention and make us forget the problem preceding it. The aim was to annex parts of the Arab homeland, one after another. Our enemies were eager to make us forget our history, particularly the bright episodes, and forget the triumphs we won through struggle.

They wanted to frustrate us, weaken our resolve, dissipate our determination, and kill our struggle. They wanted us to live for the day and ignore our future to make it easier for our enemies to wrest Arab concessions, eliminate Arab rights, and devour Arab land.

Therefore, we emphasize values and principles because they save us from errors and prevent us from succumbing to dangerous and destructive illusions. These values and principles enable us to make sound judgements on the issues, and not to be deceived by the superficial while ignoring the essential.

The Arab-Israeli struggle is our major worry and it is natural for this struggle to dominate all of our interests because it is a struggle of existence and fate. And because of this struggle's importance and its effect on world peace, the whole world takes an interest in it. When we assert that we seek a solution to this conflict to achieve a just peace in our region, we are serious, because a just peace means the end of aggression and occupation and the return of Arab territory and rights to their owners.

But Israel clings to the territory and insists on denying those rights. While we welcome every endeavor to achieve a just peace, we do not deceive ourselves when we hear what Israel's leaders are saying and see what Israel is doing—things that confirm that it does not want peace. In fact, it is against a just peace, because it does not see its own self-interest in it.

Israel usurped Palestine and it wants to occupy as much as possible of the Arab homeland to bring about greater Israel, which extends from the Nile to the Euphrates. This fact should always remain in our memory. It should not be forgotten because of false Israeli claims about its desire for peace. When Israel talks mildly to deceive world opinion, it is merely maneuvering while its leaders retain the aim of greater Israel, which they have planned to realize sooner or later.

This is because this aim is a sacred creed of Zionism. And since this aim is a creed to them, the Israelis are doing whatever they can to fulfill it on a time scale that might be long or short according to circumstances. They are not giving up this creed.

In view of this fact, we should arm ourselves with awareness, determination, and strength. We are facing a fierce, deceptive enemy. If this enemy talks about peace, it is concealing aims of expansion and aggression and if it presents peace terms and conditions, it does so as a snare for capitulation. Indeed, the Israeli rulers now do not even bother to talk glibly about peace or to hide their insistence on continuing the occupation. However, this should not cause us to freeze our political moves. We are continuing our struggle and our initiatives based on a correct understanding of the matter.

We do not ignore or belittle the importance of world opinion but we will not allow ourselves to concede our rights for the sake of winning its support. What is the use of asking others to support our legitimate rights if we ourselves concede them?

Israel is naturally more capable than us in deceiving world opinion. Israel has convinced a large section of world opinion that the Palestinian people and the PLO should abandon the Palestine National Charter. They have been able to convince the majority of world opinion that the Palestinian people and the Arabs as a whole aim to throw the Jews into the sea, as they put it, and that that is what the Palestine National Charter has embodied—a charter according to which the PLO is supposed to be guided.

However, we Arabs have said nothing so far about the charter of the Zionist movement. We have not raised that with the public. Some of us may have talked behind closed doors to some international officials, without being able to convince them. However, our words were not heard by world opinion. They demanded that the Palestinians change their charter. What I remember is that this charter calls for the liberation and unity of Palestine.

I do not recall that it calls for throwing the Jews of Palestine into the sea. It calls for the unity of Palestine, including all those living in it. To my memory, this is what the charter says and this is the spirit of the charter. I have not read the charter for many years. That is why I say: to my memory.

Zionism, on the other hand, is based on an indisputable charter, to which I referred in previous meetings with you. Zionism is based on a divine judgment. It says God gave Israel the land of the Arabs extending from the Nile to the Euphrates. It says that God entrusted this land to the Israelis, who must preserve this trust. Naturally, to preserve the trust, they must recover it from us first. We are strangers to this land and must be expelled from it, because it is their's and must be recovered. In this context the first expulsion of a large portion of our Palestinian people took place.

The Palestine National Charter was drawn up by human beings—a Palestine National Council [PNC]. Naturally, a council representing the Palestinian people can meet any time and make whatever adjustments it wants to the articles of this charter. Now we see individuals, simply and practically changing this charter through their statements. As a matter of fact, the official Palestinian institutions no longer work in accordance with the charter. For many, it is no more than a historical document. For them, this document is for preservation, not adoption.

A PNC can meet to introduce whatever adjustments it wants to it. But who can change the Zionist charter, which the Zionist movement and its supporters in the world adopt in their struggle to establish the State of Israel?

In 1982 and during a visit to France, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, then foreign minister, was asked by a reporter why the Israelis did not specify the borders of Israel in their Constitution. He replied: The borders of Israel were specified thousands of years ago. This is their charter. It is the charter that God concluded with the sons of Israel. Why do we not demand that it be changed? And what will be their reply if we ask them to adjust their charter?

Broad sections of public opinion have for a relatively long time been occupied with talk about the need to adjust the Palestine National Charter. No single person from other counties has spoken to us or to the Israelis about God's Zionist charter. This talk is not our own invention. I do not want to become engaged in religious issues at all. For our part, all religions are respected.

Naturally, as the three major religions emerged from our land here, from our Arab land, which is a source of pride and strength for Arabs. However, when we talk about the promise, knowing that our enemy considers this promise a creed that cannot be argued, and when a particular paragraph affects our land, rights, and destiny, we become concerned, especially about this aspect of their charter. Naturally, neither I nor any other sane person can believe that God said to one group of people, any people: I will give you the land from here to there and will clear these people out of your way.

We envisage God as a force of absolute justice that controls our existence. This force is for all of us and we are all subject to it. This force created us and we are all its creatures. How then, can it bring us into existence just to expel us from one place to another and to make one group of us, one of hundreds of the world's peoples, the one favored by God?

I, personally, believe that God is too wise and great to do such things. God is for all. Once again, I say that God creates all people. Had He chosen to give the Israelis our land from the Nile to the Euphrates, God would have given it to them from the beginning and would not have put us here. God could have put us elsewhere and left this land vacant for the Israelis, enabling them to come here whenever they desired.

The point that I am making is that this is the Israeli charter. Let the Israelis say that they do not seek to regain Israel's Torah territory extending from the Nile to the Euphrates and let them profess this. We will hear it if they say it. It was no secret that a phrase saying that Israel's land extends from the Euphrates to the Nile was inscribed in the Israeli Knesset; the Israeli parliament. I do not know whether this inscription is still there.

I mentioned this matter when I said that we neither overlook nor discount world opinion. However, we are too proud to surrender our rights in order to win the support of world opinion. What is the use of asking others to support our legitimate rights if we ourselves are giving them up? Some Arabs are abandoning their principles and offering one concession after another under the pretext of winning over public opinion and embarrassing the enemy, as if they were sitting an exam to prove their desire for peace.

These people either do not know, or deliberately ignore the fact that Israel is the party that must provide the physical and tangible proof of its desire for peace. However, Israel is unable to do this because it does not seek peace.

We support a just peace based on the implementation of the pertinent UN resolutions—peace that is achievable through an international conference that must be attended by all parties concerned, including the PLO. As for Israel, it has continued to show obduracy and to insist that the territories it has conquered have become rightfully its own through the use of force. Israel says that the party that seeks to negotiate must approach them with humility and accept the fait accompli.

Our doctrine or political thinking, at any rate, can not conceive the policy of offering concessions [applause] especially if we take into account the fact that Arab and world history confirms that offering concessions has never served the interests of the peoples whose rights have been taken away. On the contrary, history confirms that such a policy has always been bad for those who adopted it. There are many examples to prove our point, particularly if we use examples from the recent past to demonstrate the futility of the policy of making concessions.

Since its conciliation with Egypt, Israel has become even stronger, fiercer, and more intransigent than before. Also after its conciliation with Egypt, Israel invaded Lebanon and has continued to oppress the Palestinian Arab people. Israel has continued to defy the world by rejecting the chance to achieve peace through the international conference.

People harboring these delusions would do well to remember that the Arab-Israeli conflict is too complex for them to resolve through their own methods regardless of how long they pursue them. The proof of this is that this conflict has not been resolved by Al-Sadat's method. It has not been resolved through the Al-Sadat's method because Syria said: No. Moreover, this conflict will not be resolved through the capitulation recommended by some because Syria will also say: No. [Applause]

Israel's policy and positions are founded on, and supported by the use of military force, and it has used force to achieve its objective. This Israel, which has exercised state-sponsored terrorism on the largest possible scale and has perpetrated acts of murder and destruction wherever its Armed Forces have managed to reach—is not seeking peace. No, it is looking for people to form a bridgehead for an expansionist and hegemonic leap while the world remains indifferent and the Arab masses are put off guard by the belief that peace has been established.

But Syria will not fall into this trap. The Arab cause will remain strong even if others are dragged into the trap. It, that is Israel, cannot bear the Arab's voice rejecting peace to be raised and heard in the occupied territories. It has been confronting the stones of Palestinian boys and girls with bullets, toxic gases, tanks, house-demolitions, tree-cutting, farm-burning, and land confiscation. How then can we expect it to withdraw from the territories it has occupied and that it claims are granted to it by the Torah unless it is forced to give up that territory?

Every day, there are martyrs, wounded, detainees, and prisoners in occupied Palestine. The heroes of the Palestinian Arab people's intifadah [uprising] who are confronting the Israeli Army with primitive methods of resistance, deserve the support and backing of their nation and the entire world.

O brothers in occupied Palestine, we repeat that we are with you on the road of struggle and martyrdom, clinging to our rights and refusing to relinquish them, and rejecting capitulation or surrender of the cause. We are with you on the road of struggle until victory, which we must achieve through our national strength and efforts. We are with you just as we are with our brothers the resistance heroes in occupied southern Lebanon who pledged to God and were true to their pledge. There are immortal, righteous martyrs among them. [chanting and applause]

The enemy uses every brutality to confront any move by your brothers in the Syrian Golan, even if it is only a ceremonial act on a revered national holiday. The enemy prevents all journalists and media from entering the Golan area on any occasion when Syrian citizens there

want to express their feelings. The enemy hastens to use force against them. And this is not a sign of the enemy's bravery, strength, or concern for the peace sought by the world. However, we and our sons in the Golan are not worried over the future. Nobody can be separated from his roots. No tree will dry up if its roots are strong and deep in a fertile land.

O brothers in Palestine and southern Lebanon, O Syrian brothers in the Golan, it is important to have clear vision and endurance, for then it does not matter if the road is long and difficult for us but also for the enemy who faces a still longer and more difficult road. The reader knows that the last game will be ours, not theirs, because justice will be stronger, we will be stronger, and the Arab nation will be stronger. [chanting and applause]

He who resists Israeli aggression and occupation in any Arab land is in fact defending the nation and is exercising a right sanctioned by all laws for those whose homeland faces aggression and occupation; is carrying out a national duty, and struggling for a just peace. We are firm in our support of this right, in our exercise of this right, and in carrying out this national duty.

O comrades of the congress, gentlemen, their definition of peace calls for them to be strong and united in thought and action. Unfortunately, the current state of affairs in the Arab world reminds us of the Arabs in Andalusia when they disputed, fought against each other, and sought support from their enemy. Their states collapsed one after another. And their civilization, which was the source of science, knowledge, and light for the whole world, vanished.

Strength is not only found in a gun, tank, plane, or missile. There are several elements of strength in the Arab nation, and the most important of them is unity. The achievement of Arab unity is the fulfillment of ourselves and our identity. Unity strengthens us and without it the Arabs will remain weak in confronting their enemies. [chanting and applause]

Unity is not an ephemeral issue, a tactical action, or a seasonal topic. In Syria, our belief in Arab unity is deep and unshaken by setbacks. We view Arab unity as a necessity of life. We are not presenting anything new here. There are the rules of life, not created by nations, but which nations abide by. The unity of a nation is not a theory or an act of will on the part of that nation. It is a natural law that nations discovered. They felt it spontaneously first and then established it logically. Throughout history, it has been the essential regulator of relations between the sons of a nation, even if abnormal or emergency circumstances worked against it. That is why we cannot find one divided nation in the world that has not struggled or is struggling to normalize itself and achieve its unity.

What is required of us as an Arab nation is to normalize ourselves by achieving our unity. So long as we are in an abnormal, divided state, our problems will continue to multiply, just as a sick person continues to suffer as long as he does not rid himself of his illness.

If the unity of nations is a natural law under any circumstances, what happens when a nation goes through difficult, dangerous, and momentous times? How would we respond to this law? What would our stand be under prolonged circumstances like this? An individual defends himself against danger by mobilizing all his material and spiritual resources. When a nation is exposed to danger, it also mobilizes all its resources to defend itself. We have to mobilize all our resources to confront a potentially devastating threat to the Arab nation. The greatest and most important resource is unity. Have we mobilized it or mobilized ourselves to achieve it? We have not. I am afraid that by doing the the exact opposite we have increased the danger and threat to our future.

Before the present situation, some nations felt incapable of defending themselves nation by nation, one at a time, despite what they achieved individually in progress and fame. They began to discuss and work on unity among themselves. They were the nations of Western Europe; nations that are civilized and developed. Some of them are large nations. Their languages are different; their origins are different; their histories are different—histories of enmity, war, and blood. They made unification plans among themselves despite the disputes and conflicts between them. They have come a long way. They are working on achieving—and not in the too distant future—a unified political European entity. They have already established many institutions for this.

Where do we stand with regard to this momentous step? Where do we stand with regard to penetrating foresight like this, which pierces the future as they conceive it? Where do we stand—and we are one nation with one language, history, and destiny? In our case, all the consequences of history tend to unite rather than divide. In their case, history, languages, enmities, and grinding battles, do not unite, but divide. But they overcame all these differences to face the future with strength and success, to preserve the dignity of their nations, and to guarantee their future.

They did all this, despite the fact that in the foreseeable future, there does not seem to be anything threatening them. We are doing the opposite despite threats to us in both the near and distant future. We must all ponder this. Leaders must rise above petty interests to see into the distant future. Egotism should not prevent us from seeing the vast horizons of the future and the interests of our masses and future generations. Let us rise above trivialities if we are leaders. Let us concentrate on the important issues and handle them sanely, logically, and knowledgeably.

In this talk, I do not intend—and it is not in my mind—to propose a specific initiative. But, I wanted my words to arouse a pan-Arab intention and to recall a pan-Arab aspiration, which our hearts, and the hearts of previous generations, have longed for, and which the hearts of generations to come will long for. I am not seeking the impossible or the miraculous, rather possible although difficult. When the necessary conviction and sincerity are present, the problem of ways and means will not be hard to overcome. What is important is a pan-Arab action that aspires to, and leads toward unity. [applause]

Comrades, ladies and gentlemen, the suffering of fraternal Lebanon is our suffering. What hurts Lebanon hurts us, because we have so many links. These brotherly and unifying ties determine our interest in what is going on in Lebanon. Based on these, we have made efforts and sacrifices to help all classes of people in Lebanon, and have tried to find a real solution to the disunity and put an end, once and for all, to the fratricide that is repeated every now and then. We have pursued this sincerely, whatever some in Lebanon are saying.

In our efforts to help Lebanon in recent years, Syria was not looking for narrow gains. But, rather, it was, and still is, looking for pan-Arab gains; and such gains benefit Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab nation. [applause]

It must be understood that if we had not acted out of pan-Arab motives, we would not have been ready make the efforts and sacrifices for many years on behalf of Lebanon. Also, no country in the world, save Syria, would have been able to do what we did or to sacrifice as we did because we are the closest to Lebanon—in blood and history—and have the strongest ties with it. No one can ignore history and geography in the relations of brotherhood between the two countries.

Serious political reforms, about which there must be a dialogue, constitute the way to rescue Lebanon from its current situation; [applause and chants] and to build a stable, prosperous homeland, which enjoys the unity of its sons and their love. We hope everyone will understand our concern and that those with illusions will get rid of their illusions, because this will cut short the sufferings in Lebanon and will bring peace and stability as soon as possible.

I say what I have said before—that Syria will remain on Lebanon's side under all conditions and circumstances, and that we can never abandon our brothers because we are one people—in blood, flesh, and bone. [applause and chants]

We will not abandon brotherly heroic Lebanon because we are one people and our history—as separate nations—was supported by us with a common struggle and fighting, and with blood, which we shed together against the enemy. Therefore, we will remain together as one people. We hope that every brother and friend understands this. After that, we do not care about the forms, which are only of interest to others.

We are now two states. This has not prevented us from remaining as one people, fighting on one side, dying together, and living together. Nobody was more pained at what happened and what is happening in Lebanon than their people in Syria. Nobody is more concerned for Lebanon's salvation than the Syrian people. [applause] And nobody is more capable of making sacrifices for the sake of Lebanon and the Lebanese people than the Syrian people. This is because their sacrifices are motivated by emotion, reason, history, ethics, loyalty, proximity, and geography. What is inside us and all that we possess enables and motivates us to make sacrifices for our people in Lebanon. [chanting and applause]

Those who harbor delusions in Lebanon must differentiate between our love for our people in Lebanon and what they call our covetousness in sovereignty, land, or the like. These do not constitute a problem between us and anybody. And they know the reality. The matter has nothing to do with what is said outwardly; it is related to Lebanon's pan-Arab affiliation.

It is clear that Syria will never support a non-Arab Lebanon. [applause] When Syria agreed under French colonialism—or rather, when some officials at that time agreed under French colonialism—on Lebanon's existence they did so on the basis that Lebanon is an integral part of the Arab nation, and not as some of them are saying—in an obvious ploy—that Lebanon is a part of its Arab environment. But Israel in its present state is a part of the Arab environment: This is a geographical term; it is not a term of political, blood, or historical affiliation.

Lebanon is more than a part of its Arab environment—that is is a geographical term and does not concern us in the least. We cannot say that Syria is a part of its Arab environment because Syria's environment is not entirely Arab. We say: Lebanon's people are a part of their Arab nation—an integral part of its Arab nation. [applause]

In light of our experience throughout these years—a relatively long time—do not think that those who say that Lebanon is not Arab are a majority in Lebanon: they are very few. And I do not want to classify people. The overwhelming majority of the Lebanese agree with us. They believe in their Arabism and they do not bargain over it. They are from all social classes and economic sectors. However, a small number of people are trying to manipulate this question. Why? How could Syrians send their sons to Lebanon to fight alongside the fighters in Lebanon if we were not convinced that we are the sons of one nation? [applause]

This issue must be settled and all parties wherever they are must realize that this is sacred to us: it is not subject to argument or discussion; that is, not subject to bargaining. [applause] He who upholds Arabism is one of us: he who rejects it is our enemy. [applause]

The world is currently going through a phase of change in international relations—a phase that shows that the world is heading toward international detente and the establishment of international relations on the basis of understanding rather than confrontation and collision. This new phase has been heralded by peace initiatives advanced by the USSR out of eagerness to prevent a nuclear catastrophe and to reduce the wasteful arms spending while millions of people starve in various parts of the world. There is an urgent need to save many peoples from misery through development projects to meet their basic needs. This phase comes on the eve of the 21st century, with new challenges in the advent of the new century caused by changes in all aspects of life.

Syria supports the tendency toward international detente, as it serves our interests as well as those of all mankind. Besides, Syria affirms the importance of nuclear disarmament and of preventing nuclear catastrophe.

Our relationship with the USSR is based on mutual respect and benefit and on friendship and cooperation. Experience has proved the strength and firmness of this relationship. Moreover, strong ties of friendship exist between us and the rest of the socialist bloc. [applause]

We seek the best of ties with all countries that reciprocate on the basis of mutual respect and benefit. There is no doubt that the world is facing enormous problems requiring cooperation among all states. This is one of the objectives of international detente. Foremost among these problems are the preservation of peoples' rights; the elimination of the causes of aggression; disarmament—nuclear disarmament in particular; establishing sound economic relations among states; resolving the chronic and worsening problem of Third World debt; and protecting the environment. [applause]

Success in solving these problems would be a success for all mankind. In addition, such a success would usher in a new world based on sound foundations. We are eager to contribute to the creation of such a new world. Besides, we have continued to build our homeland and defend our interests as well as those of our nation so we would be in a better position to participate in building the edifice of human civilization. Our past and heritage as well as our current potential enable us to make this contribution.

Let us complete in Syria the great things we have begun and let us continue to make progress and accomplishments armed with our cherished national unity, with high patriotic sentiments, and with readiness to give and offer sacrifices.

I wish the fifth congress of the Women's General Federation success in its work and in supporting the progress of the Arab woman. Let the role of the Women's General Federation be enhanced in leading the woman's struggle in Syria and in backing the woman's struggle throughout the world! Long live the Syrian people! Long live the combatant Lebanese people and the combatant Palestinian people! May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you!

Iraqi Opposition Draws Up Charter in Damascus

JN0703181889 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1540 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Damascus, 7 Mar (SANA)—It was announced in Damascus today that a joint action charter of all factions of the Iraqi national forces was drawn up to topple the fascist regime in Iraq. Present at the meeting were representatives of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front [Al-Jabhah al-Kurdistaniyah al-'Iraqiyah] and six other parties, including all factions of the struggling Iraqi people.

This came at a news conference held at the Meridian Hotel in the presence of Mas'ud Barzani, representative of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front; Comrade Isma'il al-Qadiri, representative of the Regional Command of the [dissident] Iraqi Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Major General Hasan al-Naqib, representative of the Independent Nationalists in Iraq [Al-Qawmiyin al-Mustaqillin]; Salih Dughlah, representative of the Iraqi Democratic Grouping [Al-Tajammu' al-Dimuqrati al-'Iraqi], and Mundhir al-Ruwayyis [name as received], representative of the Iraqi Socialist Party [Al-Hizb al-Ishtiraki al-'Iraqi].

Mas'ud Barzani talked about the objectives of the charter, which came as a result of continuous efforts by the Iraqi opposition forces to rescue the Iraqi people from their hangman Saddam Husayn. During the press conference, Barzani also stressed that the charter gains great importance because it includes, for the first time, the Islamic as well as the nationalist forces in Iraq, which have renewed their determination to shoulder their historic responsibilities toward Iraq's fate and also to rescue the Iraqi people from tyrant executioner Saddam Husayn.

Barzani also noted that the charter is viewed as an inportant achievement for the Iraqi people, the national liberation movement forces, and the Iraqi people's friends and allies and as a beginning of a new joint action to topple the fascist dictatorship in Iraq. The charter also comes as a result of a comprehensive pan-Arab consensus on the goodwill and determination of the Iraqi people's forces and parties to promote their struggle to save Iraq from Saddam Husayn's dictatorship and from the policy of repression, terrorism, and physical liquidation, under which thousands of the sons of the struggling Iraqi people fell victim.

A number of representatives of the Iraqi national parties also talked about their plans of action in the Iraqi, Arab, Islamic, and international arenas in accordance with the disciplines and obligations to be defined by the bylaws of this alliance. The bylaws are aimed at promoting cooperation among these sides so that there can be a useful

alliance to build the homeland, which can guarantee honorable life for the heroic Iraqi people under the canopy of freedom, dignity, and security.

Speakers also pointed to their determination to set up an interim executive committee of the parties that contributed to drawing up the joint action charter. The committee will enjoy the powers of the general secretariat stipulated in the front's draft bylaws. After being approved, the committee can accept other sides as members until a general secretariat is formed by the signatories.

Participants urged the Iraqi people to close their ranks, rally around their national forces, and continue struggling to achieve their national aspirations. The members of the charter also appealed to the Arab, world liberation, and progressive forces, as well as to the fraternal and friendly countries, to support the Iraqi people's legitimate struggle to topple Saddam Husayn's dictatorship and restore beloved Iraq's Arab and national face.

Afghanistan

Military Operations in Kabul, Jalalabad Updated

Missiles Fired on Kabul

LD0803175389 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Criminal extremists, protected by Pakistan, fired two surface-to-surface missiles on residential areas in Kabul city today. Once again he displayed their antagonism to the peace and tranquility of our compatriots and committed another shocking and unforgiveable crime. The military section of BAKHTAR reports that the missiles hit regions near (Qala-e Abas) and (Qala-e Kahter Bibi-Mahro). One of the missiles hit a house belonging to carpenter Sayyed Muhammad martyring one of our compatriots and severely wounding one other. The wounded man was taken to the hospital and is under treatment. Also as a result of the incident, one house was completely destroyed and the neighboring houses were damaged.

The second missile landed near (Qala-e Abas). There was no loss of life, but there was material damage.

Missiles Fired on Gardeyz

LD0803211389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] An Armed Forces source reports that the military situation is normal in most of the provinces and supply convoys are reaching Kabul via the Kabul-Hayratan and Kabul-Jalalabad highways. Our Armed Forces are courageously defending the security and peace of the people. In regions where the extremists have engaged in robbery and plunder the Armed Forces have inflicted crushing blows on them.

The military section of BAKHTAR issued the following report on the military situation in the country in the past 24 hours:

Parvan: In various areas of Parvan Province in response to extremists' plundering actions, the Armed Forces killed 16 robbers and 1 mortar and 3 fortified (?hideouts) were destroyed.

Nangarhar: The warmongering extremists, protected by Pakistani militarists, used heavy weapons fire on residential areas and military posts in the Sorkh Dival and Samar Khel regions. The artillery forces responded with crushing blows. One member of the security forces was injured.

Qandahar: As a result of mopping-up operations and retaliatory actions carried out by military units and sub-units in the Tarin Kowt area, 15 extremists were killed and 2 mortars, 3 rocket units, and 4 DShK's were destroyed.

The extremists also fired 10 surface-to-surface missiles on Gardeyz and 4 shells on Herat, which did not cause any loss of life.

Fierce clashes between extremist groups were reported in various regions of the country. For example, as a result of fierce fighting in Gowshtah and Achin districts of Nangarhar Province between Mawlawi Yunis' and Sayyaf's extremist groups, 19 belligerents were killed and 23 were injured.

In another bloody clash between the Gulbuddin and Rabbani extremist groups in Nurestan Province, seven belligerents were killed and four men were injured.

Armed clashes also took place recently between the Sayyaf and Khalis extremist groups in Anar Darreh District, Farah Province, as a result of which three persons were killed.

As a result of armed clashes in Shindand major district between extremists belonging to the Gulbuddin and Rabbani groups, four belligerents were killed, two were injured, and eight men—including one ringleader belonging to the Gaylani group—were captured by the opposite side.

Reports have also come in on armed clashes in Badakhshan and Balkh provinces between groups belonging to the Rabbani extremist band, which resulted in dozens of belligerents killed or injured.

According to another report, the youths of the country are continuously joining the ranks of the Armed Forces on a broad scale. For example, 676 courageous youths have listed their names with the respective commissariats in the capital and provinces during the past 24 hours in order to discharge their sacred military duty.

Jalalabad Battle Continues

BK0903035489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, fighting continues for the control of Jalalabad. The mujahidin have also attacked Qandahar. So far, there is no report from any independent source about the fighting in and around Jalalabad. The mujahidin say that they have captured the airport and Samar Khel, which is the headquarters of the 11th Division of the Kabul administration's forces.

The Kabul administration admitted that fighting erupted near Jalalabad and the situation is bad. But it denied that the mujahidin have captured the airport and Samar Khel garrison.

According to the AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS, about 10,000 mujahidin from all the resistance movements have been taking part in the offensive on Jalalabad. The offensive was launched from all sides, although fierce fighting is in the east.

There is no clear report about the attack on Qandahar. The mujahidin have intensified their operations in Nangarhar and Paktia provinces. The aim of these operations is to scatter the Kabul forces guarding Jalalabad.

Mig-27 Jets Hit Rebel Positions

BK0903081889 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] A commander of the Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, says the Kabul regime is using sophisticated weapons to crush the mujahidin. In an interview, he said the Najibullah regime has recently used MiG-27 aircraft to shell mujahidin residential areas and positions. These aircraft can carry 11-ton bombs. He said during the raids 70 houses were destroyed and 40 persons martyred.

2 Planes Downed in Jalalabad

BK0903094689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0935 GMT 9 Mar 89

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, March 9 (AFP)—Afghan Government jets have begun bombing areas around Jalalabad to dislodge mujahidin guerrillas fighting for control of the strategic eastern city, resistance sources said Thursday.

A resistance official said more than 200 mujahidin may have been killed in reprisal bombings since they launched an all-out offensive for the city of some 100,000 people late Tuesday.

Afghan warplanes were conducting raids in the suburbs of Jalalabad to halt the guerrilla advance towards the city, several sources said.

Resistance sources said the mujahidin had shot down two warplanes, one in Sorkh Dival District near the Samar Khel garrison, which fell to the rebels on Wednesday, and the other in Saracha [name as received], in the outskirts of Jalalabad.

Samar Khel, headquarters of the 11th Afghan Army Division and the regime's key line of defence for Jalalabad, fell to the mujahidin early Wednesday.

Afghan rebel interim government leader Sibghatullah Mojaddedi told reporters in the Pakistani city of Peshawar that the mujahidin had also captured Jalalabad airport around noon Wednesday after the fall of Samar Khel.

But sources said Thursday that some Afghan Government troops were continuing to resist at the airport, and that sporadic gunfire was heard overnight from the northern part of the facility.

The rebels were, however, in control of most of the airport and they were trying to eliminate the government's last pocket of resistance, they said.

State-run Radio Kabul admitted late Wednesday that there was fierce fighting going on in the region and claimed that "2,500 extremists have been killed."

It stressed that no positions around Jalalabad had fallen to guerrillas.

In addition to Samar Khel and the airport, rebel sources said Wednesday that a barracks outside Jalalabad has also fallen and that there was some fighting taking place inside the city itself.

Rebel sources said Thursday that about 60 government officers continued to put up resistance in the barracks, although most troops had either been captured or defected following the rebel onslaught.

The pro-resistance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) said small groups of mujahidin have entered Jalalabad and clashes were continuing. It said the rebels were trying to reinforce the guerrillas in Jalalabad.

At least 130 soldiers were killed in battle for Samar Khel alone, according to rebel sources. Details of rebel losses were not given.

Sources in Peshawar, however, quoted eye-witnesses as saying that ambulances transported mujahidin casualties from the front to the Pakistan city. Hospital sources said at least 100 rebels were killed or wounded in the fighting.

Soviet-backed Afghan President Najibullah, addressing the country's Defence Council Wednesday, charged that Pakistani troops were aiding rebels in their attacks at a number of places in the country.

The rebels have said they also launched an attack on the southern city of Qandahar, while officials in the Afghan capital conceded that attacks were under way in the provinces of Paktia, Herat, Parvan and Kabul.

The Pakistan-based mujahidin had warned Tuesday that they planned to launch simultaneous attacks on government-held cities including Kabul in the next few days following the completion of a Soviet troop withdrawal in February.

Some 10,000 mujahidin guerrillas, commanded by the Islamic fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami faction of Yunis Khalis and the moderate Islamic National Front, had gathered for the attack on Jalalabad, according to resistance sources.

Jalalabad, the third largest city in Afghanistan after Kabul and Qandahar, is believed to be defended by 10,000 to 12,000 government troops, and had been a main rebel target since Soviet troops left Afghanistan last month.

The mujahidin's two-week-old interim government was scheduled to hold its first session Thursday near Jalalabad. But the meeting has been delayed until Friday because of the attack, ANA said.

Rockets 'Clear' Kabul Airport

BK0903121489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1210 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 9 (AFP)—Mujahidin rockets briefly cleared Kabul airport Thursday for a second straight day, travellers arriving here said.

The travellers said their Indian Airlines flight from New Delhi touched down safely, but that there were no baggage handlers at the airport.

Security men at the airport terminal insisted that they leave because rockets had been fired, they said.

No further details were available immediately and officials were unavailable for comment.

The airport was closed for about two hours Wednesday after two rockets hit a residential area surrounding it, leaving one person dead and another injured.

There appeared to be no casualties at the airport, the travellers said, but added that they were whisked out in a hurry.

Armed Forces Statement on Security Situation

LD0803164989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Statement issued by the Armed Forces High Command on 8 March—read by announcer]

[Text] Our compatriots know that on 15 February the withdrawal of the limited Soviet military contingents was completed. Today, not even a single Soviet soldier remains in our country. However, interference and aggression by the Pakistani militarists against our country is not only continuing but being intensified. The Republic of Afghanistan has announced several times that Pakistani advisers, officers, and troops using that country's helicopters have repeatedly come to Nangarhar Province, inside Afghan territory, to organize attacks against Jalalabad city.

At this time, extremist groups, with the direct support of Pakistani officers and troops, have opened war fronts in the direction of Nangarhar Province as well as in the direction of Qandahar Province. Attacks by the armed extremist groups and by Pakistani troops are concentrated on the Sorkh Dival region. Missiles, artillery, and other heavy weapons have been used in these attacks.

Units and companies stationed in this province have put up strong resistence, and are so far resolutely defending their positions. They are engaging in heavy retaliatory strikes.

Enemy attacks in the Towr Kham area of Nangarhar Province are continuing and units and companies stationed at Towr Kham are dealing retaliatory blows and defending their positions while suffering losses of life. The High Command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan will inform you, dear compatriots, from time to time, about events taking place in these provinces.

Dear compatriots, on several occasions the Republic of Afghanistan has openly informed you that the Pakistani militarists have sinister and foul intentions toward our country. Now you can see that despite the signing of the Geneva accords, they are shamelessly standing behind a number of armed extremists who are anti-Afghanistan and who oppose the national interests of the people. They are engaged in direct intervention and aggression in various regions of our homeland, in particular in Nangarhar, Qandahar, Paktia, Kabul, Parvan, and Herat provinces and some other regions, seeking to continue the war and bloodshed and to destroy our historical home, beloved Afghanistan.

The issues that have now been revealed by the Republic of Afghanistan concerning the intentions of the Pakistani militarists toward our homeland, are true and you compatriots can now witness with your own eyes that, in the front line are armed extremist groups, and behind them are Pakistani soldiers who use the extremists as cannon fodder in order to implement their plans to occupy the land of the Afghans.

The Pakistani military should know that the Afghans will defend their country no matter how difficult the circumstances are. But shame on those who commit the crime of destroying their country and killing the people as the puppets of the Pakistani military. Why do they embark on such criminal actions which go against international norms? They know that since the withdrawal of the Soviet contingents, the national reconciliation policy has paved the way among the people, and their hopes for peace are gaining strength every day. On the contrary, the extremists and their logic of continuing the war is losing credibility, and the ranks and file of the opposition consider the continuation of the war and the killing of compatriots to be a great sin.

On the other hand, refugees in the camps consider the continuation of the war to be against the tenets of the holy religion of Islam. And they have protested and have held demonstration against the warmongering acts of the heads of the organizations on several occasions. The armed extremists advocate the continuation of the dispute and war under pressure from the Pakistani military in order to prevent the growth of national reconciliation and peace-loving tendencies among commanders inside the country and among the ranks. Facts show that not only are the extremists and Pakistan military trying to set up a so-called Pakistani government but also want to see the death of the last Afghan and the ruin of his home and village.

Recent reports say that after the Soviet military contingents withdrew a large number of armed commanders were either in contact with the responsible state authorities or independently considered the continuation of the war among Afghan and compatriot brothers to be against the tenets of the holy religion of Islam, and they want to stop fighting in their areas.

But the Pakistani military and heads of the extremists do not abandon their ill intentions and selfish aims. They apply different pressures and want to force these commanders to continue the war. This situation is the result of the Pakistani military's direct interference, the aim of which is the destruction of Afghanistan and the elimination of the last Afghan.

Dear compatriots, although the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces are capable of giving a resolute and crushing rebuff to this type of subversive activity, they call on all those commanders and groups who do not support the continuation of the war and bloodshed to ensure security in their areas, and not to allow warmongering extremists to embark on destruction and bloodshed.

The Supreme Command of the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces calls on all dear compatriots to be vigilant against the ill intentions and conspiracies of the Pakistani military and to help their Armed Forces in the defense of the country.

Najibullah Meets Air Force, Air Defense Troops

LD0903065389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0457 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 8 BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, met on Tuesday active members of the Air Force and air-defense troops from the garrisons of Kabul, Bagram, Shindand, Qandahar and Balkh. The Afghan leader said that in conditions of continuing aggression from outside the fighters of the Air Force and air-defence show examples of true heroism and selfless loyalty to the motherland in battles against intractable opposition.

After the complete withdrawal of the limited contingent of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan the task of defending territorial integrity, national sovereignty, and political independence of the Afghan state was entrusted to the national Armed Forces which already scored a number of major victories over rebel groups in Qandahar, Zabol, Laghman and Konduz provinces and on the Salang lifeline.

Not so long ago, Najibullah continued, the Western mass media declared that after the Soviet withdrawal the rebels will have no difficulty in establishing their control over some cities and whole regions of Afghanistan. However, they have to admit today that opposition can not win a military victory.

The Afghan Government consistently pursues the policy of national reconciliation relying not on the continuation of armed confrontation but on a balanced political dialogue with all sides interested in the political settlement. However, aware of the great responsibility for the fate of the Afghan people, we will allow no one to shed the blood of innocent children, women and old people, President Najibullah stressed.

The peaceful internal policy pursued by the current Afghan leadership already yields its fruits. People trust those who sincerely strive for an end to the fratricide and bloodshed.

Pakistani Envoy Summoned Over Airspace Violations

LD0803181289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] The charge d'affaires at the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned this afternoon to the Foreign Ministry. A strong protest regarding Pakistani Air Force violations of Afghan airspace was given to him by the deputy foreign minister. It was pointed out to him that, despite repeated protests by the Republic of Afghanistan, Pakistani military forces are ignoring all accepted international norms by embarking on provocative armed violations against the Republic of Afghanistan. For example, four Pakistani Air Force helicopters transported various weapons and armed groups from Pakistan to the Ghaziabad region on 7 March at 1630 and then returned to Pakistan.

The attention of the Pakistani Government was drawn to the dangerous consequences of the continuation of such irresponsible actions and it was emphasized that responsibility for the (?consequences) of such actions will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

Wakil Appeals to UN Commission for Refugees

LD0903064589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0451 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 8 BAKHTAR—'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, sent a message to the high commissioner of United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to Geneva.

It is stated in the message that the Republic of Afghanistan has taken every step to provide the suitable conditions for voluntary return and settlement of the refugees. Settlement of refugees requires full cooperation of Pakistan as a signatory of Geneva accords, and the full scale cooperation of world's nations.

Minister of foreign affairs has also requested the high commissioner of the United Nations for refugees to use his good offices to call for international aid for the resettlement of the refugees.

India

'Concern' Expressed Over Situation in Tibet

BK0803144289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that India has been closely following the developments in Tibet. Replying to queries from newsmen, he said it is inevitable that concern should be expressed over the developments there as Tibet borders India and also because of the close cultural and religious ties. The spokesman said the Dalai Lama is a respectful religious and spiritual leader who is held in high regard by the people of India.

Reports of Joint Operation With Sri Lanka Denied

BK0803160189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] India has denied reports that joint operations have been conducted in Sri Lanka by the peacekeeping force and the Sri Lankan army in the Northeastern Province.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi that no such operations were planned in the past and it is unlikely in the future also.

USSR Agrees to Joint Venture in Power, Coal

BK0903014889 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have agreed to set up a joint venture organization for renovation and modernization in the field of power and coal. This follows the talks between the Soviet deputy prime minister, Mr Kamentsev, and the energy minister, Mr Vasant Sathe, in New Delhi today. The discussions covered cooperation between the two countries in the fields of power, coal, and nonconventional energy sources.

Mr Kamentsev also called on the steel and mines minister, Mr M.L. Fotedar, in New Delhi today. Both leaders discussed bilateral matters and steps to increase cooperation between the two countries.

PRC Agricultural Minister Meets Counterpart

BK0803052989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] A delegation of Chinese agricultural experts, led by their minister, Mr He Kang, called on the minister of state for agricultural research and education, Mr Hari Krishna Shastri, in New Delhi yesterday. They explored possibilities of cooperation in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries.

Accord Signed on Cooperation

BK0803161489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] India and China are to step up bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture. A memorandum of consultation to this effect was signed in New Delhi today by the delegations of China and India. Areas of cooperation for exchange of delegations and experts in the agricultural field have also been identified.

The leader of the Chinese delegation and the agriculture minister of that country, Mr He Kang, held wide-ranging discussions today with his Indian counterpart, Mr Bhajan Lal, in the capital. He also held talks with the minister of state for agricultural research and education, Mr Hari Krishna Shastri. The Chinese delegation also visited several agricultural institutes in the country.

Mongolia's Batmonh Leaves; Agreement Signed

BK0803160089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] The top Mongolian leader, Mr Jambyn Batmonh, left New Delhi today at the end of his 2-day stay in the capital. Mr Batmonh was accorded a warm and affectionate send off at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] by the president, Mr Venkataraman; the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi; and senior civil and military personnel.

Mr Batmonh, who is on a 4-day state visit to India will be going to Agra, Varanasi, Sarnath, and Bodhgaya before his return to Ulaanbaatar.

Earlier, addressing a news conference, Mr Batmonh said his country shares India's views on important regional and international issues. He expressed complete satisfaction with the outcome of his talks with Indian leaders.

An agreement on cooperation in science and technology between India and Mongolia was signed in New Delhi today. The agreement envisages cooperation in fields like leather processing, establishment of data base in biotechnology, diesel engine operation with biogas, brick making, glues, and adhesives.

CPI Criticizes U.S. on Indian Ocean Issue

BK0803034489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] The 14th congress of the CPI [Communist Party of India] has expressed concern over the threats to the security of developing countries posed by the vast network of military and nuclear bases in the Indian Ocean and the Pacific. A resolution adopted by the party at its session in Calcutta yesterday accused the United States of repeatedly sabotaging the implementation of the UN resolution of Indian Ocean conference.

In a separate resolution on the union budget and price rise, the party said it is nothing but a continuation of the government's policies of liberalization, pampering the big business and the elite, consumption, and the anti-people measures.

Iran

'Sources' Say PRC Helping To Build Missile Plant

OW0903112689 Tokyo KYODO in English 1050 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, March 8 KYODO—China is helping Iran build a plant to manufacture ground-to-ground missiles, a report from Bahrain said Wednesday. The report, citing Western diplomatic sources, said the project was started in northeastern Iran after a U.N.-mediated armistice between Iran and Iraq took effect last August following an eight-year war. The missiles will have a range of 800 kilometers, the report said. It has been alleged in Western circles that China had exported Silkworm missiles and other weapons to Iran during the Iran-Iraq war.

IRNA: UK Expulsions on 'Security Grounds'

LD0803171189 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] London, March 8, IRNA—A number of Iranians are to be expelled from Britain on security grounds, Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe has announced. Speaking in Parliament Wednesday, he said his government was "keeping the activities of Iranians under close review and further action will be taken as necessary." Howe made no further elaboration on who was being targetted and the Foreign Office said it had no names of people who may be involved.

His remarks come a day after Iran's decision to cut ties with London in protest against Britain maintaining that Salman Rushdie had the right to publish "The Satanic Verses" even though it had deeply offended Muslims around the globe.

The foreign secretary further disclosed that Iran had been asked to close its consulate in Hong Kong, a British colony. He maintained Britain had to act on account of Imam Khomeyni's fatwa [religious edict] on Rushdie's life which he said had not been withdrawn as London had demanded. The government therefore had "decided that on security grounds a number of Iranians must be required to leave this country." Home Secretary Douglas Hurd would soon announce those involved, Howe added.

Economic Relations 'Not Touched' in UK Break

LD0903101989 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 9, IRNA—Some observers here believe that "had Iran called for rupture of economic ties, it would stymie London even to a greater extent."

In its editorial today, TEHRAN TIMES said Iran's Foreign Ministry announcement on severance of full diploamtic ties with London did not touch on economic relations. "As such and as far as economic relations between the two capitals are concerned the two governments at present have no legal or executive impediments to act upon mutual economic agreements," it said, adding "the British oil companies in particular may proceed with their purchase of Iranian crude conveniently." The paper quoted some economic experts here that it was extremely unlikely that European countries and the "London-Bonn-Paris axis" in particular come up with an oil embargo against Iran or "they are as yet not prepared to do so whether openly or clandestinely."

"One point should not go unnoticed. The severance of political ties between the two countries under the present circumstances leaves no room at all for reconsideraiton of the case. London has not only hurt the Islamic Republic's indisputable respect for Islamic sanctities but also for that of some one billion Muslims around the world. Yet the mechanism, as complex as it may be, for any possible thaw in future between the capitals does not rule out this possibility. If and when any such thaw be considered, according to the Majlis decision it will be the Foreign Ministry that can proceed with the necessary dialogues on the issue."

UK Gives 'Confined Coverage' to Break in Ties

LD0803145689 Tehran IRNA in English 1437 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] London, March 8, IRNA—Iran's anouncement that it was unilaterally cutting relations with London has recieved a confined coverage in the press and on radio and television in Britain.

Reports commonly have been led by diversionary issues that are seen reflecting the concerns of the British Government in wanting to play down the historic decision of a country moving against Britain rather than the reverse, which some papers had urged.

The lead was taken by the Foreign Office Tuesday when it declined to comment on the break and was followed by the complete silence from British members of Parliament (MPs), among whom none choose to raise the matter publicly during Premier Margaret Thatcher's question time.

By Tuesday evening the main news on state-funded BBC television totally avoided mentioning the issue, its current affairs programme "Newsnight" relegated it to a brief reference in "other news," while its commercial rival, gave it attention as its 9th item.

Among newspapers Wednesday only the London INDEPENDENT featured the story on its front page but chose to lead its article with the cancellation of a consular visit for British journalist and businessman Roger Cooper, imprisoned in Tehran for spying.

The FINANCIAL TIMES in its page 4 report pointed to the likelihood of British industry losing out, while the times believed the break was a "major setback" to any possibility of reaching a compromise over the dispute about the publication of "The Satanic Verses".

On its backpage, THE GUARDIAN forecast the British Government again consulting its European allies on the issue. It reported the Iranian Government had carried out its "threat" for what Tehran called British "treachery" in not acting against the book.

Popular right-wing papers like THE DAILY MAIL and THE DAILY EXPRESS primary focused on looking at such consequences of the break as the likely negative effect on gaining the early release of Cooper and getting Iran's help over hostages in Lebanon.

Khomeyni Appoints Nuri IRGC Representative

LD0903120389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Iman Khomeyni, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, in an edict, appointed Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Shaykh Abdollah Nuri, as the imam's representative in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC]. The following is the text of the edict of the imam of the ummah:

In the name of the almighty God. To the honourable Hojjat ol-Eslam Hajj Shaykh Abdollah Nuri, may your shadow extend. Remembering and honoring the memory of the self-sacrifices of one of the great vanguards of the Islamic movement of Iran, the late martyr Hojjat ol-Eslam Hajj Shaykh Fazlollah Mahallati—who was among my devoted companions and among those who experienced hardship during the era of the bloody struggle of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, and who was also a devoted and pious and sympathetic brother to the dear IRGC guards, may God have mercy on his soul and accept him—and thanks to the efforts of his deputy, the honored Hojjat ol-Eslam Eraqi—a devout and pious person who, throughout the war and jihad, has rendered some services that are worthy of praise; God willing, will from now on as in the past continue to serve Islam and Iran and the Islamic revolution—I, appoint Your Excellency, who are a learned person, devout, a struggler, pious and with a very good grasp of politics and moreover, who belongs to a respected family of martyrs, which is itself a great honor, as my representative to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. It is necessary for me to advise you and my dear children in the IRGC about certain issues.

1. The duties which have been placed on your shoulders as responsibilities, should be observed with precision and you should not, on any account, shrink from these. The Guards Corps children [as heard] should not deviate in any way from the law.

2. Your representation in the IRGC includes representing me in the armed forces, state departments, and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Ministry. Thus all cultural, ideological, political, and intellectual issues, as well as publicity and publication activities and security and intelligence and other legal issues, will be in your charge and you will be reponsible for guidance in all these areas.

3. All my dear children in the IRGC, including commanders and others, should as necessary coordinate with my respected representative. Any deviations from this are unacceptable.

4. Effective immediately, you are responsible for the approval of appointments and dismissals of IRGC commanders.

5. My representative in the Reconstruction Jihad, I ask God almighty, that by coordinating between IRGC and the Reconstruction Jihad, you will be able make these two sacred institutions of the revolution into friends and colleagues so that they will be better able to serve Islam, the revolution, and Iran.

I ask God Almighty to grant you success and approval. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni

[Dated] 9 March 1989

Khamene'i Addresses Clergy on Islamic Duties

LD0803145189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0933 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Speech by President Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to Friday prayer imams and seminary students at Tehran's Martyr Mohtahhari College for Religious Studies on 4 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Thanks be to the blessed favor of the almighty. Today's meeting, this great gathering of you respected gentlemen, the ulema and Friday prayer leaders, seminar students, and scholars, is to discuss and review an issue that is fundamental to we clergymen and religious scholars and which, incidently, is pivotal to the message of the imam, may his shadow extend. Our subject today is how to regard the duties of the clergy in planning to elucidate Islam and its objectives, and to give direction and shape to the jihad the responsibility which has fallen on the shoulders of our community and profession in these days and times. [passage omitted]

I would like to point out that in our gathering—and we are Tehran's ulema, clerics, and seminary students—what is most relevant is the question of the pulpit, and less so that of books and research. It is not that I am saying there are no writers and researchers among the brethren, but the majority of you gentlemen here are

either congregational prayer leaders or preachers, or you work in some of the religious discourse centers. In short, the work you do is related mostly to publicity through preaching and speaking. While I, myself, believe in writing, research, and books, and while I consider this a separate topic for discussion, I would like to say that the issue is the pulpit, and speaking to an audience in person, not via the radio and television but in a way in which you have eye contact and the listeners can sense the weight of your glance and breath. This is something which, in its own right, is no less important or effective than books, and in some cases, is more effective.

Thus, the pulpit is important and brothers should not be indifferent to or underestimate its importance. Now, what should we be telling the people from these pulpits? I believe that if we preach things withou honesty and reasoning, then this is a betrayal of our profession. This is what I believe. If you cannot back up what you say with proof of evidence, this is not good. [passage omitted]

Today, the enemy has concentrated its forces to eliminate Islam. Honestly, I have no doubt that great Western and political powers have cooperated and planned with each other in this Salman Rushdie affair. [passage omitted]

Both our hearts and our love of duty, which are required of us in these times, must be fulfilled. We must perform our duties. We are stronger then they are. I feel that we are stronger. A day came when part of this collection of thoughts came together and shook the Western world. Thus a great revolution came about. Today, political, economic, and social power have been achieved through this thought process, and inclination of intellect. Very well, we now should be utilizing all existing talents and potentials within the community of the clergy. We should form an intellectual front in the face of the world of materialism and the Western world and its culture. We cannot achieve much without this.

If we delegate this task to those who do not know their job, who are gauche and uninformed—and unfortunatley, this has been the case in many instances and always will be—there will be defeat. It will be defeated from an intellectual standpoint. Now, the Islamic Republic may remain steadfast from the political and economic point of view, and God willing, it will. But from the viewpoint of the intellectual front it will be defeated in the world if we do not collect all our culture. Our ideologues, our ulema and clerics in different cities—and these things must start from Tehran—first should inform and educate people. We must work in many dimensions and on many levels. In the first instance, we must educate our people on their depth of thought and perception. We must enlighten and liberate them.

There are a few people here and there—braggarts and rabble rousers, even though they are clerics—who may find things about the revolution, the system, and the imam to criticize pedantically. These three or four brainless people get together and starting repeating these things here and there. We should put an end to this. We are the ones who should end it. [chanting] [passage omitted]

This problem must be solved by establishing strong publicity centers; powerful, active centers that feed thought. These should have greater priority and effectiveness than publicity, through the normal administrative, political, and similar methods. These latter methods should be used as (?last resorts). [passage omitted]

I will make just one more point, then I will finish my speech, as it has become too long. In my mind, there is much room for cooperation in this task. Brothers, there are even listeners in our surroundings who want to hear about just words. I believe that we should go after listeners and (?interest them). If we realize that the content of our speeches does not attract listeners, then we should do something about it to interest them, and say something that they want to hear. What I say should not be misunderstood. What I am saying is not that we should not aim just words and thoughts to people's liking. No, this is outside the premise of this discussion. This is not what I am saying. What I am saying is that if you realize that you are delivering just words in a manner that does not attract listeners, then use a method that will attract them. Do something that will attract attention. [passage omitted]

We have to find customers for this just product, this just commodity at our disposal. We have to find suitable markets for it. Some people say, well sirs, let the radio and televison be at our disposal so that we may have our thought reflected there. What I say is that the radio and televison—and these are at our disposal today—are not necessarily at my personal disposal or that of any other specific person. But, what I say is that they are at the disposal of this inclination. You see that don't you? You cannot have everything pushed through the radio and televison—talks, speeches, (?religious) lessons, discussions, and everything else. This is the task of the media, after all. The volume of these religious talks and programs is great compared to other programs, but we should not be after this. I believe in face-to-face talks. [passage omitted]

Finally, what I say in conclusion is that, we, the clergy, should make efforts to deliver the just word at our disposal today. We should turn that word into a correct, good, and attractive commodity and give it away. Of course, in certain cases, only the raw material is at our disposal and we have to turn that into a commodity.

Papers Criticize 'Sky-High' Prices, Inflation

LD0803180189 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 8 Mar 89

[By Mohammad Javid]

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA—As the Iranian new year feast nears prices particularly for clothing and food have reached new highs bringing more pressure on low and

middle-income families. And ETTELA'AT and KAYHAN don't like what they see. The country's two biggest newspapers have carried major articles critical of sky-high prices and its adverse effect on people in the traditional shopping season before Nowruz (March 21).

"High Prices Are Doing Injustice" reads the title of ETTELA'AT's front page editorial in red ink: It was true that if one were to choose between infra-structure economic development such as building a refinery and supplying more basic consumer goods such as rice, the first would be preferable.

"But the fundamental point here is that don't we want the refinery for the people and their children? If the people, especially...the low-income classes who receive a fixed salary, suffer irreparably under the hard and heavy weight of daily life, who would survive to later benefit from government services?... The people have so far borne all hardship for God, religion and divine justice... but if inflation is the prerequisite of independence, productivity... it should be the same for all (the rich and the poor)...

"Officials compare the present inflation with more severe situations and come to the conclusion that what we have is not so bad. Because there has been no reports that for instance, God forbid, a thousand people dying of hunger or cold weather in so and so corner of the country, therefore...

"To constantly compare bad with worse cannot always be logical and correct... In choosing between the refinery, rice and justice, the third comes first."

In an interview with ETTELA'AT last Thursday, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said the government had decided to spend foreign exchange on reparing the Abadan oil refinery instead of importing rice. Inflation stood at 23 percent, he said.

Meanwhile KAYHAN's reporters visiting various shopping centers in Tehran have written articles in the paper's last three issues on ordinary people being shocked by the prices.

"The scarf with butterflys on it? That's 2,000 tomans (rials 20,000-dlrs 286)," the salesman tells a husband who is shopping for a Nowruz gift for his wife.

"This one is less than half the price of our best scarves which are 7,000 tomans," he adds.

The government run shops are not fully stocked, cooperatives are not so cheap, and prices in private shops are "out of control" KAYHAN reports. One boutique owner says it's not his fault. High taxes and current costs mean that he must make at least 1.5 million rials (dlrs 21,400) a month just to break even, he claims.

"Don't have, don't buy," he self-righteously tells off his customer.

Paper Questions Iraqi POW Exchange Offer

LD0803072889 Tehran IRNA in English 0700 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 8, IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES in an editorial Wednesday said that again the Iraqi president has come up with a suggestion that circumvents U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

It referred to the latest suggestion of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn that there be a no-holds barred exchange of POW's between the two countries. This shows that Saddam has moved outside and beyond the framework of the Resolution 598 to make his "humanitarian" gesture, said the paper.

"Even if we may concede some 'humanity' to the Iraqi president, we still fail to understand why the insistence on calling it a move away from Resolution 598, when the very second clause of the resolution stipulates resolving the question of prisoners of war held by either side."

"We smell a rat here and wonder what is up the Iraqi leader's sleeves," said the editorial adding that what makes one suspect his motives is the determination to shuffle the orders of the resolution.

According to the paper the move has been timed as to take political advantage and exploit the problems between Iran and the West.

The second motive, it added, could be to "leave a negative impact on the forthcoming meeting of Iran-Iraq foreign ministers later this month in New York." Iraq is trying to portray itself as the "meek lamb of peace, while he is the leopard with an 'anti-peace' covering, because of its dealing with the U.N. peace moves," it added.

The third possibility is that Iraq is trying to preempt Iranian requests for correct execution of the resolution. Iraq knows that the exchange of the POW's can bog down the two sides on prolonged talks.

The exchange of POW's, estimated to be about 35,000 in Iraq and double that number in Iran, will enable Saddam to please the families of the POW's who are asking for the return of their loved ones.

Media Reviews Rushdie Affair, Ties With West

'New Phase' in Relations

NC0703104989 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 26 Feb 89 p 14

[Commentary by Majid Reza'iyan]

[Excerpts] The crisis in the West's relations with Iran entered a new phase as ambassadors and charges d'affaires from both sides were summoned. In this "new

phase," with the initiative practically in the hands of the Islamic Republic, there are some noteworthy points that should be studied. At the onset of the new political phase the West took the first step in improving relations with Iran and started two parallel moves—political and economic. On the one hand the West tried to make the Islamic Republic of Iran abandon its principles and ideals, and on the other hand, it tried to gain a special place in the post-war reconstruction phase by following the examples in South Korea and...and to block the path toward "self-sufficiency and economic independence." [sentence as received]

In its new assessments, the West had been convinced that revolutionary Iran would abandon its ideals in its approach once it confronted world realities! The West was convinced that therefore, in the "new phase of reconstruction" Iran would need Western help and the effective tool of Western technology, and that this need would make it ignore all its ideals! The West's extreme insistence on "opening up the political atmosphere" in Iran so that the way would ultimately be paved for its indirect and, finally, its direct cultural overtures stemmed from this very motive. [passage omitted]

The West's ideologues and politicians have come to the conclusion that in seeking a "basic path" for the approach to the idealistic Islamic revolution, "a cultural aggression and a war of theories" should also be started in addition to creating economic and political bottlenecks so that the Islamic revolution of Iran will neglect its principles and values in time as it expands its relations with the West. [passage omitted]

Therefore, we saw how the alert step by the imam of the ummah against Salman Rushdie was able to convey to the world the message that despite all the respect that the Islamic revolution has for expanding relations with the world within the framework of accepted international laws, it nevertheless does not forget its values in this process and that it will not stay silent during the aggression on the "sacred integrity" and the sanctities of 1 billion human beings and Muslims.

The West is now worried about the emergence of two outlooks on the political-economic scene, and incidentally, signs of each of these can be seen. After the unfavorable stand by the West in support of a hireling author who "insulted 1 billion Muslims" and after the summoning of their ambassadors and charges from Tehran, the West is now witnessing the expansion of Iran's political relations with the Eastern Bloc and is seeing how all the Islamic government officials are increasingly urging non-dependence on world arrogance and emphasizing the need for self-sufficiency in this "new juncture of reconstruction." This was clearly stated in the remarks by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his sermon during the Friday prayers.

Meanwhile, the clarification of the imam's doctrine on pure Muhammadan Islam and American-style Islam, which was stated in his recent message to the committed clergymen and scholars, started a new process of culture and values and blocks the way to the presence of hegemonists, especially from the West, more than ever before. Therefore, the West should remember that in expanding its relations with Islamic Iran, it will never be able to destroy revolutionary values. It should also remember that if the relations are based on preserving "mutual respect" and preventing plots and machinations against each other, then political calm and stability with the framework of logical relations will be achieved. Thus, the only alternative for the European leaders is to pull themselves away from this Zionist plot while there is still time, so that they will not be the despised objects of the "world and the world of Islam" more than they are now.

World Muslim Reaction Cited

NC0303204389 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1520 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Commentary entitled "Repeated Experiences" from the "Weekly Report" feature]

[Text] The reaction of the world's Muslims to the arrogant powers' hostility toward the 1 billion Muslims' sancticties is gaining momentum each day. Meanwhile, the solidarity among the world's Muslims concerning this plot has become a terrifying nightmare for the leaders in this very important incident.

At a time when the world of Islam has displayed its unity with unbelievable solidarity concerning the insult to Islam's sanctities, Western governments have resorted to political and economic pressures and have once again repeated a mistake whose futility they have repeatedly experienced.

By gathering in front of the British Embassy in Tehran, Iran's Muslims reacted to the lascivious hostility of the island of Britain's rulers. By chanting slogans of "Death to Britain" and "Death to Rushdie," they protested against this historic and calculated animosity.

A noteworthy reality of the incidents in recent weeks is that the leaders of the hostility toward Islam are feeling deep concern over the united rage of Muslims in all parts of the world—a rage that has manifested a zealous unity. The bloody incidents in Bombay, India, opened a new chapter in the formation of the Muslims' genuine struggles in the subcontinent. In the harsh clashes between Indian's policy and its Muslims, a number of people were martyred and wounded. This has caused concern in Islamic circles and has placed an emphasis on policies that are linked with the interests of colonialist powers in that country.

The revival of Islam throughout the world has had its impact. The process of this awakening in various forms has cast off the masks from the deceitful faces of all those who have tried to hide their long-lasting hostility toward Muslims.

The heavy silence of the heads of Arab countries who have been portraying themselves as the safeguards of Islamic values and who have been exploiting these values for years on end to impose themselves on the Muslim masses has once again clearly defined the line between them and the true Muslims. This is so much so that press circles in some Arab countries have protested this heavy silence. AL-JAMAHIR, Algeria's widely-circulated publication, has attacked Al-Azhar and criticized the calculated silence by the court clergymen. This is at a time when most of the court circles and ulema in these countries have adopted a similar stance. This clearly shows the close links that exist between their interests and the interests of colonialist powers.

However, a point to note is the movement of the world's Muslims and the committed ulema concerning the spread of this plot. This has made some Western circles review policies adopted by some governments, such as the British, German, and French. The Muslims of Europe—in France, Britain, Denmark, Norway, the FRG, and other countries—and Muslims in the United States and Canada have organized unprecedented demonstrations and have strongly protested the calculated plots against Islam and Muslims. Thgese protests have gone beyond the Muslims, and realistic Christian and Jewish circles have understood the conditions and objectives of these colonialist efforts to negate divine values and to insult the divine prophets, while official Christian circles and the Pope have been unable to react to the insult against the prophet of Islam.

The Western powers' wrong assessment of the Islamic revolution's leadership and of all the world's Muslims led to their hasty reactions that have boomeranged, despite extensive political and propaganda pressures. Instead of being able to impose their policies, the British rulers, who led this movement, are suffering from vertigo. This can be seen from their behavior in the past 2 weeks. Britain's Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe tried, by intensifying his activities to organize a diplomatic war against the Islamic Republic. By sending numerous letters and notes to the officials of various countries, he has tried—in one way or another—to make them to react toward Iran.

However, the outcome of all these efforts has been the further unveiling of this country's hostility toward the Muslims and the intensification of protests in various parts of the world against British interests.

In his recent remarks at the United Nations, the Canadian foreign minister criticized the EEC's hasty approach to Iran because, in his opinion, this has led to the further unity among the Muslims. The governments of the FRG and France too have displayed unfavorable reactions within the framework of this plot. With its irrational approach, the FRG has caused the independence of its foreign policy to be questioned. It appears that the FRG statesmen have, without taking into consideration the various aspects of their actions, followed a policy which is precisely linked with the interests of the United States and Britain and which gives rise to great doubts as far as their independence of action in foreign policy is concerned. With these actions, the FRG showed that it does not have the strength for an independent approach and that it has become a link in the chain of the big Western powers. This can definitely lead to fundamental changes in Iran's reassessments of relations with these countries because the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran are the palpitating heart of the world movement of Islam, operating within a framework enveloping Muslims' interests in advancing Islam's holy objectives. Therefore, the blocks that are placed in front of this movement never will have favorable impacts on the process of relations. This pessimism toward these countries is spreading throughout the entire world of Islam.

UK 'Sly Maneuvers' Criticized

NC0803131389 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 28 Feb 89 p 1

[Commentary entitled "Let Us Be Attentive"]

[Excepts] The discussions today of the people's deputies at the Majlis and the remarks by the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the anti-Islamic plot by the West in the publication of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses" and especially on the sly and axial role of Britain in protracting this plot, all speak of Iran's firm decision to sever its relations with Britain. [passage omitted]

Naturally Iran's stand on this is very clear, as are the remarks by the deputies of the Iranian people. In Iran's opinion, the main factor in the recent anti-Islamic plot is the British Government, and Iran and the world family of Muslims consider Britain to be their adversary. If this act does not remedy Britain, then Britain might protract the issue and try, in one way or another, to avoid stating its opposition. Or it might state its opposition with the book, but resort to another sly maneuver and try to distort the religious decree on the book's author.

It is the mission of the Majlis to study and to decisively react to Britain's various stands, in whatever form they may appear. Another weak weapon of Britain's, which has a clear record in the history of state terrorism, is resorting to acts such as explosions and assassinations and attributing these acts to Iran. These are old cliches that are doomed to fail and cannot harm Iran's great cultural confrontation in defending the dignity of the Islamic world.

UK 'Despicable Record' Noted

NC0903110489 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 1 Mar 89 pp 1, 16

[Unattriabuted commentary entitled: "Severing Relations With Britain From a Position of Strength"]

[Text] The deadline set by the Majlis on the severance of diplomatic relations between Iran and Britain if the British Government fails to adopt a stand on "The Satanic Verses" is highlighted in all political and news reports in the world.

Of the colonialist powers of Europe and of the Western countries in general, the British Government has the worst, most sinister, and despicable record. It is true that in the second half of the current century the imperialist and arrogant U.S. Government became the standard-bearer and overtook the British Government in hegemonism and colonialism. Nevertheless, because of its history of colonialism and long experience of the exploitation of nations, Great Britain has the ugliest face. It is especially remembered by those who have some memory of the past as the power with the worst military, political, and intelligence record. If we do not need the U.S. Government, then why do we need the British Government—which is the historical rival and current partner of the United States? Today the United States is the standard-bearer of colonialism. And why should we, who have turned our backs on this standard-bearer, turn toward the power which is moving hand in hand with it?

Therefore, it is under the particular current circumstances that once again Muslims in the Muslim world have turned to the imam and to the principled stand of this leader and of the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran headed by Imam Khomeyni. Encouraging developments in the Soviet Union have had a favorable impact on the leadership of the largest country in the communist camp. The West undoubtedly takes these two elements into consideration. The adoption of a clear, explicit, united, and decisive stand by Iran vis-a-vis the British, West European, and U.S. governments is a revolutionary and welcome move, and this is because the darkest pages in Iran's history are those that concern Britain first and then the United States.

But everything depends on how we assess the impact of this correct and holy step. It is years now since the Western governments grew roots in our country. They are like an old tree. When we cut down the trunk and the branches, the deep roots remain in the ground. They try to use dozens of weapons and complicated mechanisms of economic pressure such as high prices, inflation, and genuine and artificial shortages against us. These weapons should be clearly identified, and ways to neutralize them should be sought and put in the hands of our government. This is what the severance of relations from a position of strength means.

Commentary on 'U.S. Conspiracy' in Afghanistan

LD0503123389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The title of the last political commentary today is: Afghanistan and the United States' new conspiracy in that country.

Following the complete withdrawal of Soviet Red Army from Afghanistan, which was recently achieved as the result of the extensive, 9-year struggle of the Afghan people and the mujahidin, the Afghan resistance is now faced with a new U.S. conspiracy.

Western imperialism, led by the United States, which regarded the Soviet aggression and occupation of Afghanistan as the best pretext for justifying its aggressive goals in the region and in the world, is now trying to gain a strong foothold in that country through an indirect political aggression, rather than military aggression. The 9-year occupation of Afghanistan, which has now ended at the exorbitant cost of more than 1 million martyrs, millions of refugees, and the destruction of all the country's economic centers, provided a good opportunity for the United States to carry out its domineering goals by means of aggression against various parts of the world, including Tabas [the unsuccessful U.S. attempt to rescue hostages at the U.S. Embassy], Grenada, Libya, Lebanon, and finally, the Persian Gulf.

With the end of Soviet aggression and occupation of Afghanistan, which has now led to an improvement in the relations between the Kremlin and the countries of the region, including China, Washington has lost the initiative. For this reason, it can now be seen that the United States is hatching a new plot against the Afghan people and mujahidin, the first phase of which has already been implemented with the assistance of the reactionaries in the region.

The existence of differences in the mujahidin consultative council also reveals differences of opinion among the mujahidin groups about the formation of a provisional government and the programs on the future of Afghanistan. This is something which should be seen and evaluated within this context. According to observers of the Afghanistan political scene, it has now been made clear that the United States has engaged in certain incitements to create differences among various mujahidin groups, incitements which have also affected the ranks of mujahidin forces inside Afghanistan.

Without doubt, the United States' aim in engaging in these expansionist measures, is to fill the vacuum created by the Soviets' withdrawal from Afghanistan. If the United States succeeds, history will be once again repeated for the uprisen Afghan nation. The United States has clearly realized that the unity of various Afghan groups is the only way to put an end to the

10-year Marxist regime in Kabul. However, the United States does not want the mujahidin to achieve a clear-cut victory without reliance upon world powers. Therefore, by creating dissension and differences in the united ranks of the mujahidin, the United States is trying to prevent this success which will lead to the true independence and self-awareness of Afghanistan.

At the same time, Washington announces that it will continue to equip and arm the Afghan mujahidin until the downfall of the present regime of Kabul. Most clearly, the White House leaders are trying to make sure that the establishment of the future government of Afghanistan is achieved with their help. This is at a time when Afghanistan is already in the powerful hands of the Afghans and when more than 90-percent of that country's territory has been liberated at the hands of the mujahidin groups. There is also the possibility of a peaceful conquest of Kabul and a number of leading cities of Afghanistan. According to Afghan revolutionary commentators, if Afghan mujahidin were not concerned about the lives of their civilian compatriots in those cities, this issue would neither be impossible, nor would it require any military assistance from the United States.

The truth is that the Afghan nation, which has behind it 9 years of experience of Islamic struggle against the occupiers, and 10 years of experience of struggle against the imposed Marxist regime, will not allow history to be repeated again, this time for direct U.S. aggression in Afghanistan to replace direct Soviet aggression.

Pakistani Official Arrives for Economic Talks

LD0403215189 Tehran IRNA in English 1754 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA—Agriculture Minister Issa Kalantari today received the Pakistani premier's adviser for finance, economy, planning, and development, V.A. Jafari.

In the meeting, Kalantari announced the Islamic Republic's readiness to expand agricultural relations with Pakistan in addition to Iran's role in the 3-member Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) which groups the two countries with Turkey.

Iran's imports had steadily decreased over the past five years, he said "in spite of the imposed war, coupled with the country's growing population and foodstuff consumption."

The minister expressed hope that under a ten-year plan Iran's foodstuff imports would be further cut.

Jafari replied that his country was "keen to cooperate with the Islamic Republic in post-war reconstruction." He added that Pakistan was ready to lend Iran its experiences in agriculture and fisheries.

The Pakistani official arrived here Friday at the head of a delegation to attend the fourth joint Iran-Pakistan Economic Commission which opened today.

Iran is represented at the commission by Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani.

Attends Commission Meeting

LD0403214389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] According to an IRNA report, the opening session of the fourth joint economic commission of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan was held in Tehran this morning. Mr Iravani, minister of economy and finance and the Iranian head of this commission, during this session referred to the third memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries, saying: The Islamic Republic of Iran has tried to increase the volume of trade between the two countries to $400 million, the figure agreed between the two countries in the memorandum of understanding. In practice, $300 million worth of goods have been exchanged between the two sides. During the first 2 months of the current year the two countries have exchanged $123 million worth of goods.

He referred to the role played by economic cooperation and its expansion in the future in view of the two countries' particular strategic locations, and stressed the significance of signing an agreement on road transportation between the two countries, approved by the Islamic Majlis, the signing of an agreement on reciprocal exemption of the two countries' shipping companies from tax payment, and the role of tripartite cooperaton between Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey. He expressed the hope that in the wake of an agreement to upgrade the Economic Cooperation Organization sessions at the ministerial level between the two countries, cooperation would lead to the formation of an Islamic common market in the future, so that it can play an effective role in international forums, and particularly in the Islamic Conference Organization.

Afterwards, Mr Jafari, an advisor to the prime minister of Pakistan, while reiterating that the new Pakistani head of government attaches high importance to the expansion ties between Iran and Pakistan, expressed the hope that the volume of trade between the two countries would soon reach the level forecast in the third session.

Holds Talks With Musavi

LD0503212989 Tehran IRNA in English 2103 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA—Visiting Pakistani official V.A. Jafari separately met Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Acting Minister of Commerce 'Abd al-Hoseyn Vahhaji today.

Jafari advisor to the Pakistani premier for finance, economic affairs, planning and development, told Premier Musavi that promotion of the level of representatives of Pakistan, Turkey and Iran in which form the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) will greatly expand the organization's activities. Jafari announced Pakistan's readiness to cooperate with Iran in the anti-narcotics campaign.

In response, Premier Musavi placed emphasis on the two countries' willingness for solving the Afghanistan issue.

Musavi briefing the Pakistani official on Iraq's procrastination in full implementation of U.N. Security Council resolution called for international pressures on Baghdad for full enforcement 598.

He termed the Iran-Iraq borders as a regional "powder keg".

In his meeting with Foreign Minister Velayati, Jafari termed the objective of his visit to Tehran as expansion of ties in various fields.

Velayati in reply laid weight on mutual ties, and informed Jafari on the Iraqi obstacles in the way of peace.

Iraq still occupies Iranian territories despite the ceasefire and the resolution 598, he pointed out.

Promotion of Iran-Pakistan trade and economic ties were discussed in the meeting between Jafari and the acting minister of commerce.

The Pakistani official arrived here Friday at the head of a 12-man delegation.

Confers With Khamene'i

LD0703114689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] This morning, President Khamene'i received Mr Jafari, a high-ranking economic advisor to the Pakistani prime minister.

The Central News Unit reports that in the meeting the Pakistani official first conveyed warm greetings from Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan. He then expressed his country's readiness to cooperate with Iran in reconstruction affairs, saying: Our cooperation doubtless is aimed at assisting the ummah of Islam and will serve to strengthen the regional countries credibility. He then expressed sorrow in connnection with deadlines that have appeared in the path in implementing resolution 598 and expressed hope that the UN secretary general will be able to implement the provisions of the resolution in full.

In turn, Mr Khamene'i expressed thanks for the Pakistani presidents kind message. He welcomed the expansion of bilateral ties in all fields, saying: In light of the common factors in our cultures, geography, and history, relations between Iran and Pakistan are natural ties that must be expanded further. He added: Just as Iran and Pakistan have carried out extensive political cooperation in international forums, so they also must do so in cultural fields because joint cultural ventures facilitiate all other joint efforts and lead to the expansion of cooperations.

According to the report, the meeting also was attended by Finance and Economy Minister Iravani, the Pakistani deputy foreign minister, an advisor to the labor minister, a Pakistani parliament deputy, and the ambassadors of the two countries.

Interviewed on Rushdie Book

LD0703140589 Tehran IRNA in English 1213 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Mashhad, March 7, IRNA—A Pakistani official said his government was trying to take legal measure to campaign against the novel, "The Satanic Verses".

Vasim Aun Jafari, advisor to the Pakistani premier for finance, economic, planning affairs made the remark in an interview with IRNA. He did not elaborate. [passage omitted]

Jaffrey arrived in Tehran on Friday heading a 12-man delegation to take part in the fourth joint Iran-Pakistan economic commission. A note of understanding is expected to be signed.

He made a pilgrimage here to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (greetings be upon him), the 8th imam of the household of the prophet (peace be upon him).

The Pakistani official and his accompanying delegation also held talks with local provincial officials here which resulted in agreements on cultural and agricultural cooperation.

Signs Economic Memorandum

LD0803140289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] The fourth session of the Iran-Pakistan joint economic commission concluded its work today after signing a memorandum of understanding on various economic and cultural issues.

On the basis of that memorandum, which was signed by our country's minister of finance and economic affairs and by the senior advisor to the Pakistani prime minister for economic, development, planning and financial affairs, the two countries agreed on a $400 million volume of trade exchange per year, an increase in border exchanges, the purchase of 50,000 tonnes of rice from Pakistan, and the sale of 20,000 barrels of oil per day to Pakistan.

The two sides also agreed that a passenger train between Quetta and Zahedan should become operational again. They agreed that sessions of the Economic Cooperation Organization—the ECO—between Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey should be upgraded to the ministerial level.

The two countries also agreed on cooperation in combatting narcotics, setting up joint Pakistan-Iran textile factories in Pakistan's Baluchestan, cooperation in various industrial fields and exchanges of experts, training of Iranian fishing cadres in Pakistan, and various cultural issues such as in news programs on radio and television.

Departs Tehran 8 Mar

LD0803223789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Mr Jafari, special adviser to the Pakistani prime minister, who came to Iran at the head of a delegation to participate in the fourth session of the joint Iran-Pakistan economic commission, left Tehran this afternoon following after signing a memorandum of understanding on trade. He was seen off by Finance Minister Irvani and the Iranian official in charge of the joint economic commission.

Prior to his departure he said: We had very beneficial discussions with Iranian officials during the trip. He called the signing of the memorandum of understanding a positive step toward further expansion of bilateral economic exchanges and added that the two sides have reached beneficial agreements in a variety of economic fields.

Noting the agreement on the purchase of crude oil by Pakistan, he added that a high-ranking oil delegation will soon visit Tehran for the purpose of purchasing oil. He added that the two sides will be taking steps to increase the volume of economic exchanges.

Discussing bilateral cooperation in combatting drug smuggling, he said: Both countries are determined to stop the smuggling and use of narcotics. He added that cooperation in this respect can be very advantageous. On the issue of his country's policy with respect to the Afghanistan situation, he said that his country welcomes the withdrawal of Soviet forces from that country and expressed the hope that an independent and free government that enjoys popular support will be established in Afghanistan and assume power.

Pakistan

Afghan Charges on Airspace Violations 'Baseless'

BK0903025489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] The allegations leveled by the Kabul authorities in their protests on 23 and 24 February and 4 March have been investigated by Pakistan and were found to be baseless. These allegations were about the infiltration of Pakistani militia force in (Sorkh Wolah Wali) of Konarha Province and on the airspace violations of Afghan territory by a Pakistani helicopter and a plane.

PLO's 'Arafat Continues Official Visit

Lays Embassy Cornerstone

BK0803145789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Excerpt] The PLO chief, Yasir 'Arafat, has said he will continue his peaceful efforts for the independence of Palestine despite Israeli atrocities against the Palestinians. He made these observations while speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Palestinian Embassy in Islamabad this evening. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was with the distinguished guest on the occasion. The PLO chief and the prime minister jointly hoisted the Palestinian flag amid loud applause. The prime minister congratulated 'Arafat on this historic occasion.

Earlier, the PLO chairman was accorded an enthusiastic welcome when he arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on a 2-day official visit to Pakistan. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto also arrived in Islamabad from Sukkur along with the distinguished guest. [passage omitted]

Meets President, Departs

BK0903112989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] The PLO chairman, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, called on the president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in Islamabad today. He discussed with him regional issues of mutual concern, particularly the Middle East situation. Mr 'Arafat thanked the government and people of Pakistan for their steadfast support to the Palestinian struggle. The president said Pakistan considers the struggle of the Palestinian brethren as their own struggle and it would continue to stand by them till their final victory.

The PLO chairman, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, was given a hearty send off when he left Islamabad this afternoon at the end of his 2-day official visit to Pakistan. He was seen off, among others, by the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto.

Violence Between Lahore Student Groups Reported

BK0903032889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] A press note issued by the district magistrate, Lahore, says a group of students linked to MSF [the Student Union in Pakistan] of the government Commercial Institute in Allama Iqbal town, marched yesterday in connection with their undeniable success. They proceeded to the science college and indiscriminately opened fire. Rival students returned the fire. During the exchange of fire, the president-elect of the Commercial Institute Students' Union was injured. He later died.

The press note says the students engaged in violence in some areas of Lahore City, damaging some government property. However, the situation has been brought under control. About 70 students were arrested, and a large quantity of firearms were recovered.

Bhutto Interviewed on Relations With India

BK0403034489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has said India and Pakistan have the opportunity to make efforts to reduce tension and to stabilize their relations on the basis of cooperation. In an interview with the Calcutta weekly SUNDAY, the prime minister said differences persist between the two countries; however, the two sides feel that the promotion of relations between them will be in their own interests and in the interests of the region at large. Both India and Pakistan should work with caution for the sake of establishing peace, because there are ample suspicions and doubts, and the pace of transition should be acceptable to the people of the two countries.

On the reduction of forces, the prime minister said that proposals have been made to bring down defense expenditure and forces, including reducing military exercises, on a bilateral basis. During the meeting with the Indian prime minister, these matters did not come under discussion because it was a very brief meeting. We expect these matters will be discussed sometime in the future.

In reply to a question, the prime minister reiterated that Pakistan does not believe in intervention in the Indian Punjab. She said: I have informed the Indian prime minister that interfering in the affairs of one another is not my government's policy. If there is any doubt or suspicion in this regard, both sides can take combined steps to prevent intervention in each other's territory across the borders.

Answering a query on trade between the two countries, Ms Benazir Bhutto said SAARC countries have set up a commission to review exchanges in trade and other fields.

The prime minister said the countries of the world are making efforts to come closer to one another and to establish better ties. After all, why can't Pakistan and India come closer together? the prime minister asked.

PRC Army Chief Visits Military Organizations

BK0503092089 Islamabad Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Text] The chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army of China, General Chi Haotian, who is currently in Pakistan, visited the air defense command in Rawalpindi, the heavy vehicles factory in Taxila, and the Pakistan ordnance factory at Wah. At the air defense command, the Chinese army chief was briefed on the country's air defense system, while at the vehicles factory and ordnance factories he was informed of their current activities as well as future projects.

Paper Criticizes UK Stand on Rushdie Book

BK0303122489 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 25 Feb 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Doublespeak"]

[Text] It is becoming increasingly apparent that the present furore over the book "The Satanic Verses" could have been avoided had the British government exercised greater respect for the feelings of its citizens who profess the Islamic faith and the requests of Muslim countries. This unfortunately was not done and for reasons that are wholly untenable, with the result that it has caused utmost grief to Muslims all over the world apart from creating an international row. The Muslim community had already started a campaign against the blasphemous book just as it was released in the market. Besides making the OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] aware of the the contents of the book, the community's leaders had registered their strong protests with the British government seeking an immediate ban on the publication.

However, the official spokesmen took shelter behind Britain's democratic tradition in expressing their unwillingness to do anything. The situation was exacerbated by reports that the sacrilegious book was being published in the United States also.

The British government's posture on the issue, however, seemed to have been flawed from the beginning as it adopted an unnecessarily rigid position. It should have taken a realistic view of the situation rather than making claims of democratic tradition that have not always been upheld in recent years. Some years ago a programme on a British TV channel, which was deemed by the Saudi government as being offensive, was withdrawn, despite strong protests from the British press and interested persons. At that time the democratic right had to be compromised by the government's economic compulsions.

On a more recent occasion, the British government took every step possible, legal, political and diplomatic to have the book "Spycatcher" banned all over the world. This measure, basically undemocratic, had been initiated by the state itself, on grounds of national security. The question of freedom of thought or publication never arose, as the establishment which is the defender of such freedoms, was itself seeking to controvert them.

These two instances clearly imply that notwithstanding the long tradition of democracy, deviations from it are not unknown. This, therefore, should have made it possible for London to be more receptive to the protests of the Muslims. Moreover, Britain with its past lengthy

association with the Islamic world, is one western country which cannot claim ignorance of the strong sensitivities of the Muslims on issues concerning Islam. Thus the strange indifference shown to the contents of the book is all the more surprising and unacceptable. There must be any number of Islamic scholars in London who would have strongly advised the government against allowing the publication of the profane book.

Seen against such a background, London's treatment of the whole affair seems to be surprising and unprecedented. Much as it was desirous of rigidly maintaining its democratic tradition, it would not have caused a political row if it had exercised its right to ban the book, if for no other reason than the fact that it hurt the sentiments of its citizens. We are quite sure the minor rumpus the ban would have created would have been much less than the crisis it is now trying to contain.

Sri Lanka

Protest, Strikes, Boycott Mar Parliament Opening

JVP Protests Opening

BK0903072589 Hong Kong AFP in English 0636 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Colombo, March 9 (AFP)—Anti-government Sinhalese militants forced shops and offices to close and sent vehicles off the streets in southern Sri Lanka to protest the inauguration of parliament Thursday [9 March], officials said.

The Sinhalese Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) had called for a nationwide protest to mark the inauguration of parliament with an address by President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Mr. Premadasa, who was elected president in December, is due to make his first policy statement to parliament later Thursday.

Hundreds of heavily armed police and soldiers guarded approach roads to the parliament on a lake island here for the inauguration ceremony involving students and the military.

Security forces urged people to open shops in Matara, Hambantota and Badulla districts and escorted state-owned buses after rebels torched two trucks and attacked trains elsewhere, officials said.

Reports from the central town of Kandy said a bus driver was shot dead Thursday morning for apparently ignoring JVP warnings to stay away from work. Railway tracks had been sabotaged at remote areas, officials said.

"The situation in Colombo seems to be normal. A few shops were closed and fewer buses operated and office attendance fell. But the situation seems to be improving," a military official here said.

The JVP in leaflets and posters claimed that February 15 general elections were rigged and urged people to protest the inauguration of what it described as a bogus parliament.

Foreign minister and junior defence minister, Ranjan Wijeratne, told reporters here late Wednesday that security forces were continuing anti-subversive operations in the island's south.

He said 2,000 suspected subversives, a government euphemism for the JVP, had been detained for questioning in the central and southern provinces since Monday.

"Quite a few hardcore subversives were among those detained. Some were arrested with weapons. Some had admitted to various killings. Police have been asked to take action against those who are found guilty," Mr. Wijeratne said.

The JVP is opposed to the government and has continued a violent campaign attacking ruling party members, security personnel and leftwing rivals in the past 18 months.

2,000 Detained in 'Sweep'

BK0903081389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, about 2,000 people have been detained in a 3-day sweep against the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP]. The Sri Lankan deputy defense minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, told newsmen in Colombo that 1,000 persons have been detained in the southern areas and a similar number in the central province around Kandy. The JVP have called on students to boycott classes to coincide with today's opening of Parliament. Security around the Parliament has been tightened.

Tamil MP's Boycott Opening

BK0903092689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0907 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Colombo, March 9 (AFP)—The ceremonial opening of Sri Lanka's Parliament by President Ranasinghe Premadasa Thursday was marred by a boycott by Tamil MP's [Members of Parliament] and sporadic strikes by Sinhalese rebels, officials said.

Anti-government Sinhalese militants forced shops, offices and schools to close and sent vehicles off the streets in southern province. They also killed a bus driver in the central town of Kandy to protest the inauguration, officials said.

The Sinhalese Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) had called for a nationwide protest to mark the inauguration of the country's ninth Parliament which it says was elected at a rigged general election on February 15.

Mr. Premadasa in his first address to Parliament since coming to power after a December presidential election called for peace and unity in this troubled Indian Ocean island republic.

He began the speech at 11.44 a.m. (06:14 GMT), considered by his astrologers to be an auspicious moment to bring good luck to him and the nation.

Mr. Premadasa said his United National Party (UNP) government had relentlessly pursued a policy of reconciliation and building trust and confidence with those who had not yet joined the democratic process.

Observers said this was a reference to the JVP and the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which is waging a bloody guerrilla war against Indian troops in the island's north and east.

"Those who disturb the peace must understand that the patience of our people is not unlimited," Mr. Premadasa said, hinting he might deviate from his soft aproach to the militants.

The largest single Tamil group in the 225-member house, the Elavar Democratic Front (EDF) with 13 seats, boycotted Thursday's ceremonies.

A spokesman for the party had earlier said they would stay away from Parliament until a ceasefire was ordered in the fighting between Indian troops and the LTTE.

The EDF is the political wing of the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) which is a close ally of the LTTE. But EROS, unlike the LTTE, accepted a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord aimed at ending the island's ethnic conflict.

Hundreds of heavily armed police and soldiers guarded approach roads to the sprawling Parliament building on a lake island here for the inauguration ceremony involving students and the military.

Security forces ordered shops to open in Matara, Hambantota and Badulla Districts in the island's south and escorted state-owned buses after rebels torched two trucks and attacked trains, officials said.

Reports from Kandy said a bus driver was shot dead Thursday morning for apparently ignoring JVP warnings to stay away from work. Railway lines had been sabotaged in remote areas, officials said.

"The situation in Colombo seems to be normal. A few shops were closed and fewer buses operated and office attendance fell. But the situation seems to be improving," a military official here said.

Foreign Minister and Junior Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne told reporters here late Wednesday that security forces were continuing anti-subversive operations in the island's south.

He said 2,000 suspected subversives, a government euphemism for the JVP, had been detained for questioning in central and southern provinces since Monday.

"Quite a few hardcore subversives were among those detained. Some were arrested with weapons. Some had admitted to various killings. Police have been asked to take action against those who are found guilty," Mr. Wijeratne said.

The JVP is opposed to the government and the Indo-Lanka accord under which New Delhi has some 45,000 to 50,000 troops in the Tamil-populated north and east.

Since the peace pact, the JVP has been accused of killing more than 2,200 ruling party members, security personnel and leftwing rivals for supporting the peace deal.

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